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BY **STEPHEN RENO**

GRANITE VIEWS

27 business cards



Over the last week, I acquired 27 business cards by attending professional gatherings and social events. While that might have happened if I had attended such a series of events in California, Texas or New York, I know that these are live contacts and that if I call or e-mail the parties tomorrow they will recall our conversation and be ready to follow up. This is the beauty of New Hampshire

When my family and I moved to Manchester in 2000, I received an important insight from a respected civic leader: "New Hampshire is first a state of relationships and then a state of transactions."

I shared that counsel with an extraordinary group of 22 college seniors and juniors last weekend as they gathered for a two-day workshop on New Hampshire, its people and its opportunities. The event was "Leadership College," a joint project of Leadership New Hampshire and Stay Work Play NH, with support from Fidelity Investments and the New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation.

These bright, engaged young people from 12 of our colleges and universities spent time with entrepreneurs such as Jeremy Hitchcock, CEO of Dyn; Pubali Campbell, owner of Bikram Yoga Manchester; Dr. Steven Paris, medical director of Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center Manchester; Katie Merrow, VP of the NH Charitable Foundation, and Deb Scire, executive director of Campus Compact of New Hampshire. They listened to presentations by New Hampshire House Speaker William O'Brien, Deputy Minority Leader Gary Richardson (Hopkinton), and Karen Wadsworth, Clerk of the New Hampshire House, and then had an hour's lunch with each.

These were participants in Leadership College, a program that was a direct outcome of a recommendation of the recent governor's Task Force on the Retention of Young Workers. Nominated by their institutions, they were gathered in a summit to learn from one another, meet opinion-leaders and engage in "speed networking" where they could exchange business cards and résumés. Dyn (Dynamic Network Systems) hosted the day-long event and there were few in the class of 22 who, at day's end, didn't want to find employment there in one of Manchester's fastest-growing tech firms.

They shared stories of civic engagement and leadership: scary but brave forays into issues and projects that needed personal commitment. Through the exchange of stories, they saw one another anew as potential resources upon which they could draw to further their own projects, whether to address homelessness, child abuse, hunger, or environmental concerns.

According to the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies, New Hampshire is now the fourth-ranked state for median age, higher even than Florida. All of us, mindful of Confucius' admonition that wisdom resides in age, should be looking ahead and be supportive of these young professionals who will take our place in our professions, on boards, and in elected office. Next time you meet one, be prepared to exchange business cards.

Stephen Reno is executive director of Leadership New Hampshire and was formerly chancellor of the University System of New Hampshire.

12 The spirit of giving

You want to be generous, but what's the best way to do it? We look at local charities to see how they're faring this holiday season and we let you know who's in need and what you can donate.



Also on the cover: Don't feel like cooking a big holiday meal? Local restaurants have to-go options for the season. We show you **where to find your feast**, ready to take home, on page 44.

Looking for a night out? Check out the **Music This Week** listings for live music in southern New Hampshire, the concert listings for big ticket shows and the Comedy This Week for a listing of where to find laughs. Listings start on page 71.

HippoStaff

EDITORIAL

Executive Editor

Amy Diaz, adiaz@hippopress.com, ext. 29

Contributing Editor

Lisa Parsons, lparkers@hippopress.com

Listings Coordinator (listings@hippopress.com)

Arts listings: Adam Coughlin, arts@hippopress.com

Inside/Outside listings: Kelly Sennott, listings@hippopress.com

Food & drink listings: Angel Roy at food@hippopress.com

Music listings: Angel Roy at music@hippopress.com

Book Editor

Lisa Parsons (send books for possible review via mail attention Lisa — books will not be returned)

Staff Writers

Adam Coughlin, acoughlin@hippopress.com, ext. 12

Jeff Mucciarone, jmucciarone@hippopress.com, ext. 36

Angel Roy, aroy@hippopress.com, ext. 30

Contributors

John Andrews, Doran Dal Pra, Rick Ganley, Henry Homeyer,

Dave Long, Marianne O'Connor, Karen Plumley, Eric W.

Saeger, Bridgette Springer, Gil Talbot, Michael Witthaus.

To reach the newsroom call 625-1855, ext. 29.

BUSINESS

Publisher

Jody Reese, Ext. 21

Associate Publisher

Dan Szczesny, Ext. 13

Associate Publisher

Jeff Rapsis, Ext. 23

Production Manager

Glenn Given, production@hippopress.com

Production

David Coscia, Allyx Curran

Circulation Manager

Doug Ladd, Ext. 35

Advertising Manager

Charlene Cesarini, Ext. 26

Account Executives

Doreen Astbury, Ext. 11

Alyse Savage, 603-493-2026

Katharine Stickney, Ext. 44

Roxanne Macaig, Ext. 27

Kristin Crawford, support staff, Ext. 24

National Account Representative

Voice Media Group

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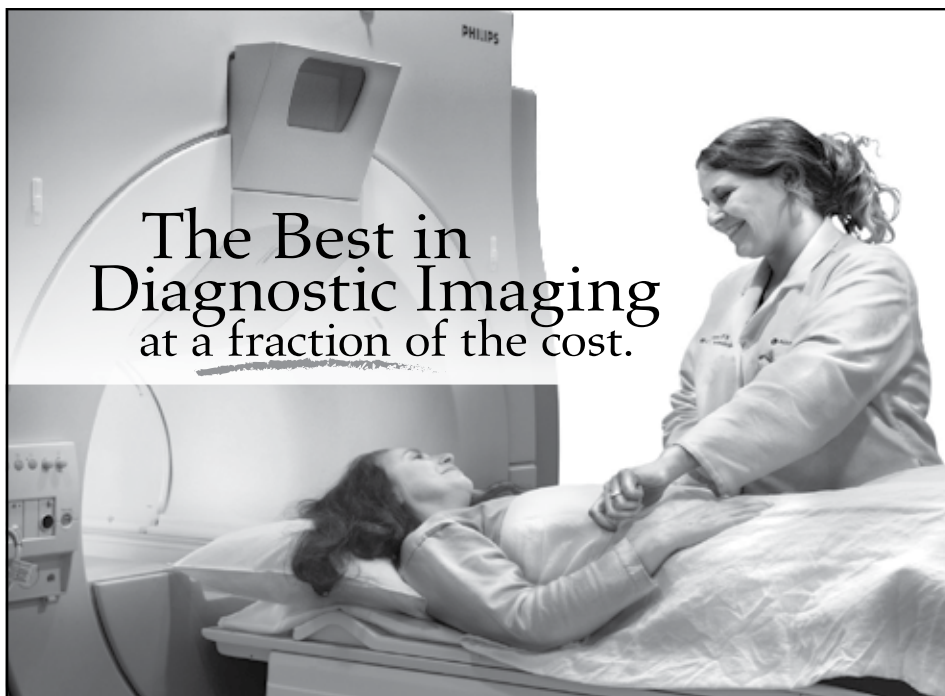
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NEWS & NOTES

News in Brief

• **House sustains veto of right-to-work bill:** It took a good chunk of the year, but Gov. John Lynch won in the end on the so-called right-to-work bill. The House sustained Lynch's veto of the measure, which would have forced competition between unions and would have made it easier for workers to opt out of joining unions. Proponents say it would have made the state more attractive to businesses. The vote took place on Tuesday, Nov. 29. "The bill would have directly interfered with the rights of businesses and their employees to freely negotiate contracts," Lynch said in a statement. "Also the debate over the so-called right-to-work bill in New Hampshire appears to have been largely driven by national outside interest groups, and was not a result of problems facing New Hampshire businesses or workers." House leadership played a different note. "As a result of [Lynch's] efforts, employees across the state will still be forced to pay into unions that they may oppose," said House Speaker William O'Brien in a statement. O'Brien said the companies who have expressed interest in moving new jobs to New Hampshire if it were a right-to-work state won't be bringing relief to the nearly 40,000 unemployed people in the state. "We have missed an opportunity to grow our economy and help our citizens, thanks to the governor's blind allegiance to supporting union bosses," O'Brien said. Proponents said the bill would have let workers opt out of unions, while opponents said workers can do that already. Lynch won the battle here but the war goes on. O'Brien said the issue will be a priority for the House again next year. So far 22 states have enacted such legislation. New Hampshire would have been the first in the Northeast. O'Brien held off on the vote on this issue for some time, presumably in an effort to procure the best combination of votes to override the veto.

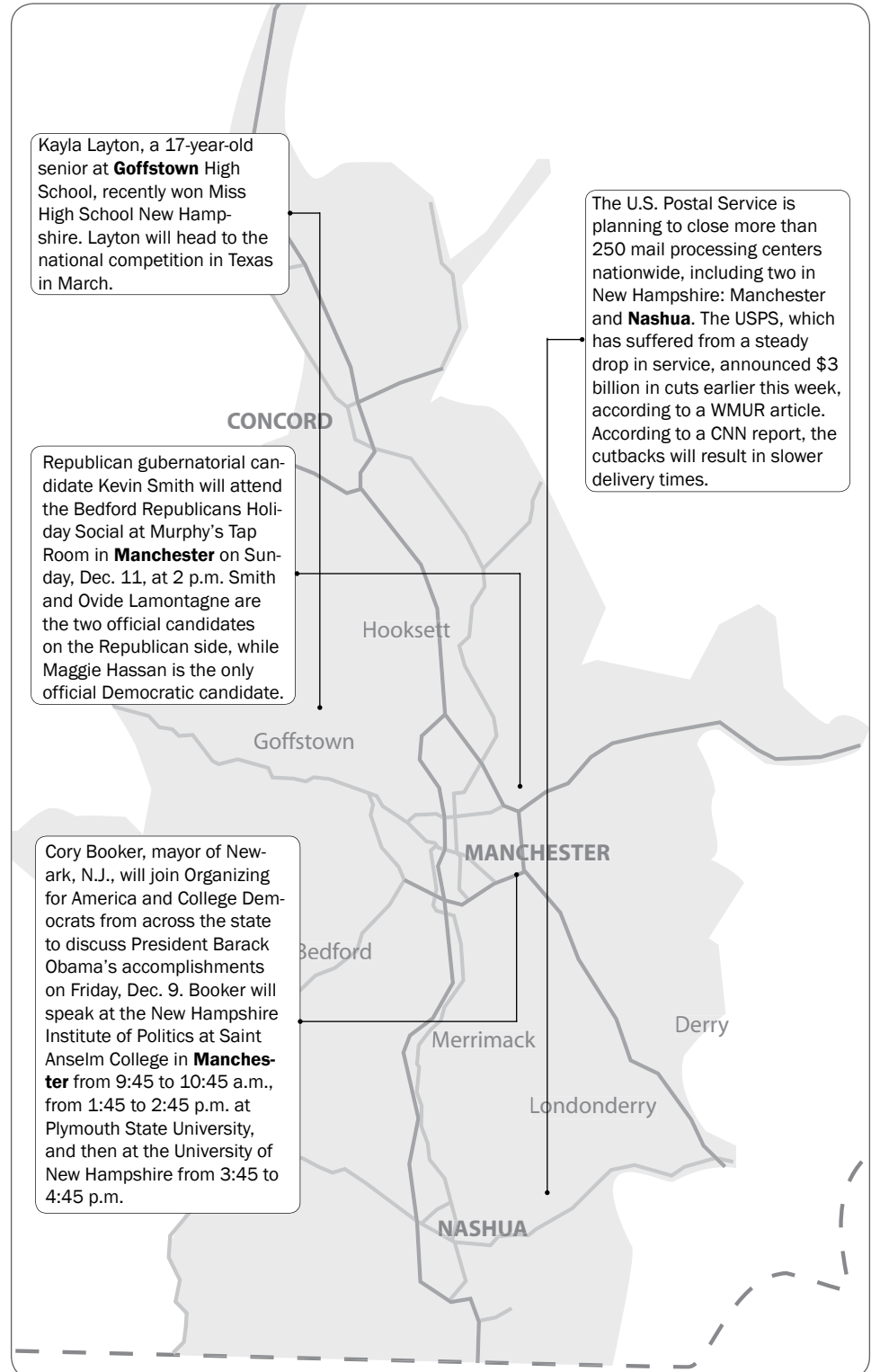
• **House sustains veto of "objectionable" school materials bill:** Lynch also got his way on House Bill 542, which would have allowed a parent to determine whether any course material is "objectionable" and require school districts to develop an alternative. The House sustained Lynch's veto in a vote on Tuesday, Nov. 29. Lynch viewed the legislation as giving every individual parent of every student in a classroom a veto over every single lesson plan developed by a teacher. "The bill had the potential to disrupt classrooms and learning across the state," Lynch said in a statement. He also said it would have been difficult and potentially costly for school districts to administer.

• **November revenues low, but some areas ahead:** Cuts in funding for hospitals and the lowering of the tobacco tax rate have resulted in lower-than-anticipated state revenues for the month of November, according to the latest revenue report. Still, revenues from business taxes and the meals and rentals tax were strong. Other than the Medicaid Enhancement Tax (MET) and the tobacco tax, revenues are

more than \$10 million ahead of projections, with business taxes performing about 10 percent greater than projections, according to a press release from the governor's office. November revenues were \$56 million below projections, primarily because of the lower MET payments from hospitals. To date, hospitals have paid about \$50 million less in MET taxes than was projected in the legislature's budget, the release said. The legislature cut about \$150 million in payments to hospitals that are funded by the Medicaid tax. When matching federal funds are added to those payments, the legislature's cut to hospitals equals about \$300 million. In response to the changes, hospitals made clear that they would try to lower their tax payments. Hospitals have filed a lawsuit over this issue. The state departments of Revenue Administration and Health and Human Services will continue to review the hospitals' payments to ensure the provisions of New Hampshire's MET are being followed. Some hospitals have received permission from the state to make late payments in December. In addition to cuts to hospitals and the tobacco tax, the legislature's budget includes a built-in \$14 million deficit at the end of this fiscal year. For the month of November, tobacco tax revenues were \$3.5 million below projections, and \$4.3 million less than the prior year. So far this fiscal year, the state has taken in \$11 million less in tobacco tax revenues compared to the prior fiscal year, the release said.

• **Plastic manufacturer moves plant from Manchester to Londonderry:** Shelburne Plastics has relocated its New Hampshire manufacturing operations from Manchester to Londonderry, where it expanded its operation to 35,000 square feet at 27 Industrial Drive. The state Division of Economic Development Business Development Manager Michael Bergeron helped Shelburne evaluate the benefits of staying and growing in New Hampshire and connected it with the New Hampshire Business Finance Authority. The BFA provided a \$750,000 energy-efficiency loan for the purchase of new capital equipment, according to a state press release. Shelburne Plastics has been in business for more than 25 years and supplies high-quality HDPE and Polypropylene bottles and containers to the dairy, water, juice, chemical and food markets throughout the eastern part of the country, as well as eastern Canada. The company has its corporate office in Vermont and has manufacturing sites in Vermont, Londonderry and Maryland. Visit www.shelburneplastics.com.

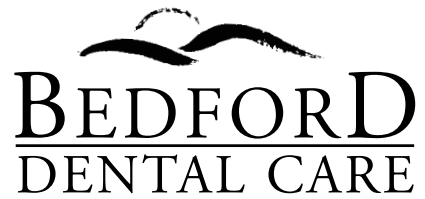
• **Anagnost donates to FIT:** Families in Transition, a Manchester- and Concord-based homeless housing and services provider, received a \$36,575 donation from Anagnost Investments through the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority tax credit program. The donation will fund the ongoing expansion and relocation of the OutFITters Thrift Store Boutique in Concord, and will help combat homelessness by enhancing Families in Transition's housing and programming.



The OutFITters Thrift Store Boutique is in the process of relocating to a larger, more central location at 20 South Main St., and is expected to open this month. All of the store's profits are used to fund Families in Transition programming. The Boutique offers new and gently used upscale women's clothing, shoes and accessories. It is expanding to also carry men's and children's clothing, books, housewares and furniture. Families in Transition also operates a thrift store in Manchester, as well as a new commercial cleaning company.

• **Sen. Shaheen's defense measures pass:** U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen applauded the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012. The bill included several measures that Shaheen wrote. The annual defense bill authorizes all Department of Defense programs for the coming fiscal year and addresses major defense policy issues, according to a press release from Shaheen's office. The measure passed the Senate and must now be

reconciled with the version of the bill the House passed. "This critical piece of legislation will strengthen our national security, provide for our troops and their families, maintain our military power, and keep our defense businesses competitive," said Shaheen, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, which wrote the bill. "At the same time, this defense authorization bill improves oversight of American taxpayer dollars by canceling and rolling back wasteful spending. I hope this important piece of legislation will get to the President's desk as soon as possible." The bill provided pay raises for all uniformed military personnel, as well as funding for critical equipment and training for troops. It also invests in defense science and technology. The bill includes a number of provisions that will enable the Defense Department to lead in the creation of a more secure energy future, the release said.



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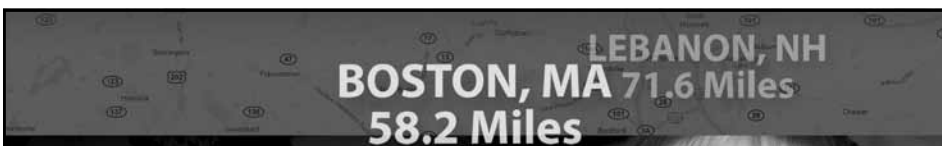
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HIPPO POLITICS

What's next in education funding

House rejects Lynch's proposal

By Jeff Mucciarone
jmucciarone@hippopress.com

So it's down to the House's version. That might have an easier time passing the legislature, but more difficulty in the public test, a statewide vote.

The state's role in education funding has been fixed amid controversy for decades (see the Dec. 1 issue of the Hippo for more of the backstory). There are those who support a constitutional amendment that would limit the court system's ability to regulate education funding and could allow lawmakers to send aid to needier communities. Then there are others who support the court's role to watch over the system to make sure the state is distributing aid to everybody, in good times and in bad.

The House and the Senate each passed their own versions of constitutional amendments this year. House Speaker William O'Brien wanted to break up the logjam. Gov. John Lynch had made a proposal this fall as well, and O'Brien, more or less, wanted to get rid of Lynch's proposal. So he scooped up Lynch's language, endorsed it, and then promptly urged the House to shoot it down, which it did on Wednesday, Nov. 30. The House also killed the Senate's version.

"The constitutional amendment I proposed would affirm a state responsibility for education and allow the state to target aid to communities that need it most," Lynch said in a statement. "This would allow us to provide the best education possible for all our children, regardless of where they live."

As it stands now, the state must spend \$3,450 per New Hampshire student each year. That's regardless of how much each district spends on education and how rich or poor a community is. The kids in Bedford get that amount



per student and the kids in Berlin get it too. The state's funding formula does provide opportunities for communities to get additional funding through other state aid channels, such as if a district has a lot of students

in free and reduced lunch programs or if a district has many students from low-income families. A constitutional amendment would presumably allow the legislature to target aid to needier communities, while potentially holding back on funding to districts with plenty of money.

Lynch's move

Lynch did not attend a public hearing for his proposal on Nov. 22 and he didn't attend the House session on Nov. 30. He had hoped his amendment language would be taken up in January.

That Lynch didn't come out in support of his proposal isn't actually surprising. He was probably aware it wouldn't have support in the legislature, particularly since O'Brien's proposal passed the House with a supermajority.

"Amending our constitution is serious work, and I would have expected this amendment to go through the normal hearing process, with an opportunity for careful review and public input," Lynch said in his statement. "Unfortunately this was not the case."

It's all curious. Lynch surprised many when he made his proposal. Lynch had been in talks with O'Brien and Senate President Peter Bragdon several times this year and, according to O'Brien, never presented language that would be acceptable to him. He seemed to catch both O'Brien and Bragdon off guard. How it played

out is interesting because it had seemed, following big GOP victories in 2010, that resolving longstanding education funding issues was an area of common ground for the legislature and Lynch.

Some hope?

It appears to have ultimately fallen in line with other contentious issues. Or has it? House Majority Leader D.J. Bettencourt sent a letter to Lynch outlining his and House leadership's desire for a constitutional amendment. Several members of the House leadership ultimately voted for Lynch's proposal, including Bettencourt. Bettencourt said in his letter the vote itself was not a political ploy.

"Republican leadership in the House remains committed to accomplish a constitutional amendment on education funding as evidenced by the fact that we stood with you yesterday in support of your proposed legislation," Bettencourt wrote, adding he looks forward to beginning negotiations once again with Lynch to work toward a bipartisan agreement.

Of the three proposed amendments, Lynch's proposal incorporated the most potential for judicial review, while O'Brien's proposal essentially removed the courts entirely from the education funding process and would have treated education like any other government department. The Senate version fell somewhere in the middle.

The Senate is scheduled to take up the House version of the constitutional amendment in January. At that time, it can deal specifically with the language in that bill or amend it. If it amends it and ultimately passes it, the measure would go back to the House. Any measure would take a three-fifths majority, 239 votes, to pass the House.

2012 NH Primary Notebook 2012nh.com @2012NH



Slow and steady in the race

Jon Huntsman hangs on, keeping his focus on retail politics

By Adam Coughlin and Jeff Mucciarone
news@hippopress.com

Jon Huntsman has gone all-in in New Hampshire. The former ambassador to China and governor of Utah has spent considerable time in the Granite State, doing the good old-fashioned retail politics that made the state's first-in-the-nation primary famous — he's hoping his approach is just taking a little longer to bear fruit than others'.

Huntsman hasn't picked up much traction in New Hampshire. Recent polls have had him fourth behind Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul. Huntsman is seen as perhaps the most moderate of the Republican candidates. According to reports, Huntsman hasn't ruled out a bid as an independent.

He says retail politicking is still the name of the game, even if other candidates have risen quickly with approaches that haven't incorpo-

rated much actual hand-shaking.

To the question of whether candidates need to engage in retail politics here or can be successful by campaigning through social media and things like tele-town halls:

"[Retail politics is] still alive and well here," Huntsman said in an interview with the Hippo on Wednesday, Nov. 30. "I see it. I feel it. People want to hear from the candidates. They want to see them. They want to question them. It would be an interesting question to kind of probe a little bit, but I think it's alive and well here. The acid test of course will be Jan. 10."

While the Union Leader made headlines, and raised a few eyebrows, when it recently endorsed Newt Gingrich, Huntsman isn't worried about not getting the nod from the paper despite the countless hours he's spent in the state compared to the relatively few Gingrich has spent here. Huntsman is doing editorial board meetings with papers all over the state.

He says he can feel their endorsements coming.

"That will be a very powerful example of grassroots politics," Huntsman said.

While Huntsman is often considered a moderate candidate, he doesn't see himself that way.

"I don't think of myself based on labels at all," Huntsman said. "I think of myself as somebody who has a conservative governing record who embodies the philosophies of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.... We have to get beyond labels. First and foremost, we are Americans...."

"We're all in different cul-de-sacs, where we can park in our own corners of Facebook," he said. "We have to get beyond labels ... and start pulling together to rebuild this country."

To Huntsman there are two deficits facing this country. One is the economic deficit, which needs to be addressed with clear eyes and without half measures. The other is a deficit of trust, and that one is equally corrosive but it's not

being talked about, he said.

"People no longer have trust in institutions of power," Huntsman said, adding that includes Wall Street, the presidency and Congress. "It's a system crying out for reform."

Huntsman wants to shut the "revolving door" of lawmakers moving from their federal office into the lobbying profession. He said there should be a lifetime ban on that.

"It just adds to the cynicism," Huntsman said. Beyond that, Congress should cut its own pay until it balances the budget. He also called for term limits and a new set of ethics to help eliminate the crony capitalism on Capitol Hill.

Seeing problems with some of the country's large financial institutions, Huntsman said it is time to end corporate welfare and subsidies. He wants a clean sweep of all corporate welfare.

"If you can't stand on your own two feet... you ought not exist," Huntsman said. There are six institutions that are equal to about two-thirds of the country's GDP, about \$9.4 trillion, he said. "They can't fail, because if they fail, we go down too," Huntsman said.

Huntsman is proposing a plan that would mitigate the risk to taxpayers by eliminating the implied bailout for the too-big-to-fail institutions.

"I want them right-sized, back to the size they were in the 1990s," Huntsman said, "not 60 percent of the GDP, but 20 percent. Capitalism without the possibility of failure isn't capitalism."

He'd institute a fee that would mitigate the risk to taxpayers and give the big institutions incentives to draw down in size and spin off assets.

That's dramatic and he knows it. He said it would be impossible to pass a plan like that

if lawmakers are getting donations from the banking sector. That's why ethical changes are needed first, he said.

Expect to continue to see and hear from Huntsman right up until the primary. He says he'll be parading an honest message. He welcomes people to contrast his grassroots approach to the volatility of the rest of the field.

"What we need to continue doing is a steady substantive rise," Huntsman said.

He figures his approach takes longer, but by the time the day of the primary arrives, he likes where he stands.

"Once you're staring down the ballot box, and the theater is behind them, and you actually have to make a decision... when you're thinking about the candidate with the background, the temperament, the skill set, that's where I think a lot of the work we're doing in the state is going to come together nicely."

"There are theatrics involved in the rise of others..." Huntsman said. "I'm not one to light my hair on fire.... We're doing it the old-fashioned way."

- Texas Gov. **Rick Perry** joined Huntsman in addressing the state legislature on Wednesday, Nov. 30. Perry received a mixed reception when he told lawmakers to have New Hampshire join Texas as a right-to-work state. Gov. Lynch's veto was later held up.

- It was a big week for **Newt Gingrich**. He received the nod from the UL and rose in national polls and in Iowa, South Carolina and Florida. He must be feeling the success — he told ABC last week, "I'm going to be the nominee."

- It was a bad week for **Herman Cain**. After a woman came forward and said she had a 13-year affair with Cain, he ultimately suspended his campaign over the weekend.

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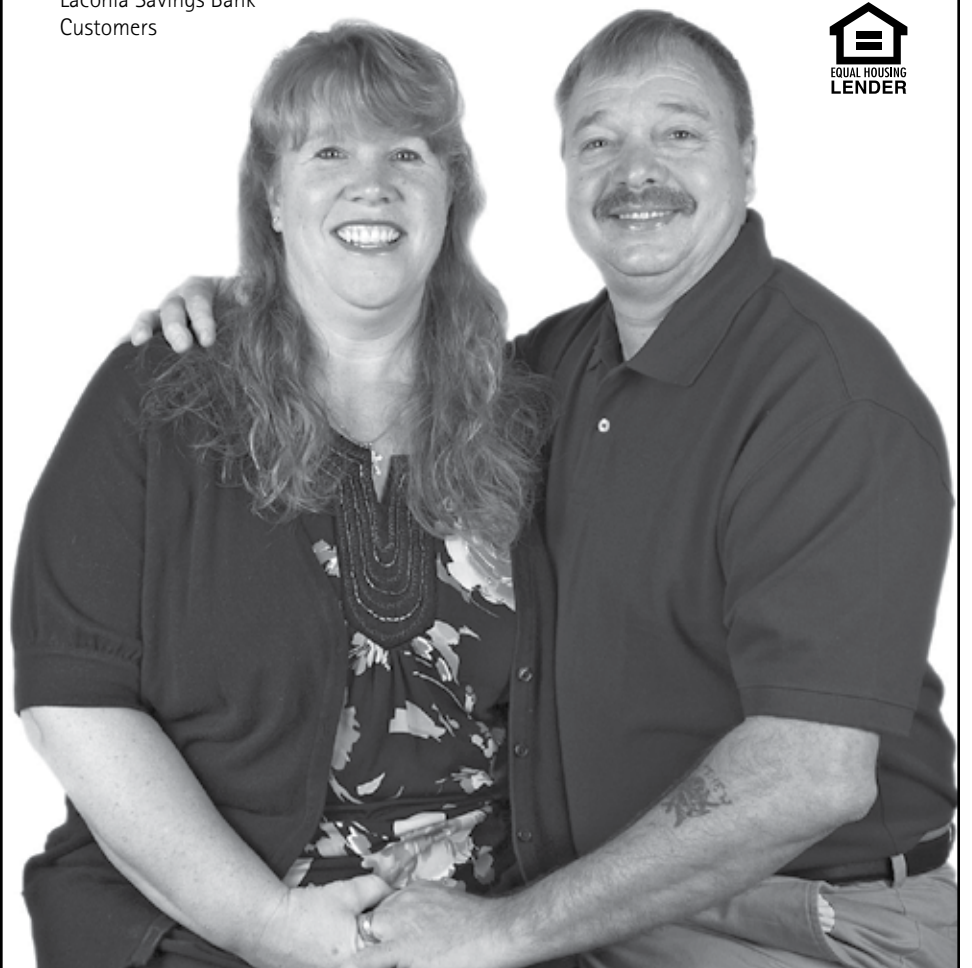


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Ruth Zax, family fundraiser

'Doing good stuff for folks who really need it'

Ruth Zax, fundraising guru for Child and Family Services of New Hampshire, was recently honored by the Council on Fundraising, a nonprofit group that promotes philanthropy. Zax has guided Child and Family Services' philanthropic efforts since 1983 and raised nearly \$25 million in charitable support during her tenure, according to a CFSNH press release. Last year, Child and Family Services served 15,000 people.

Q: *What are your thoughts on being honored?*

... I was really rather humbled by the whole thing.... To be singled out ... was odd because what we do in our profession is very special and unheralded so often, that to be singled out and honored was very overwhelming and humbling.

How did you end up here?

It's not where I started. It wasn't my plan. ... I was a child of the '60s. I wanted to do good in some way, but ... my passion at the time was music. ... I had been a performance major at Boston University, and when I came back to Manchester, the first thing I did was volunteer at a daycare center doing music with kids.... I was very enamored with the kids and the fact that they were all from low-income families. ... I went into the homes of low-income families and taught them how to clean their child's hair because lice had infested them at times. I testified in a case of child abuse. That do-gooder piece of me kind of took over, and when a job became available at Child and Family Services' advocacy program, the Children's Lobby, I applied. I became passionate about child abuse and neglect. ... Though I still continued to sing and perform, this took over....

How do you approach your job?

Every day is a challenge. ... Something always comes up that isn't on the agenda. My goal every day is to do the best that I can, and to get the best out of the people with whom I work

Have you had to change your approach with the down economy?

I think the major challenge has been to just reintroduce ourselves in different ways. ... When I first moved over ... to the fundraising side, it was far simpler. Not only were the economic times better — I have seen a number of recessions over the 28 years I've been doing this — there were fewer nonprofits. The reputation of this organization is such that it has a very loyal cadre of supporters. ... You raise money by sending a letter, or by talking to someone, or by writing a proposal. ... Or you put on a special event.... Those are basically the tools that we use. The changes, Internet fundraising, and donors are far more savvy and alert to wanting to have more of a say in how their funds are used. ... Basically for me, to be successful, it's all about knowing who your donors are. ... Then it's making sure whatever it is they want to have happen, you can tell them it happened with their donation

With the government pulling away some ... how are things going on the fundraising front?

I think we've done very well. I think that the 162 years of history really goes a long way in ensuring to a foundation or to a corporate donor that we're here for the long haul. We're stable. We're a good investment. We will man-



Ruth Zax

age your funds well. ... Internally, we've really tightened our belts here and we are doing more with less. We've hit our targets every year since the economic downfall ... and we've actually done better than we've anticipated in a number of areas, especially grant-writing. We're very pleased with the support we've gotten.

What could the organization use from people at this time of year?

We serve a lot of homeless teens and we've got this wonderful teen resource center on 99 Hanover St. There's a food pantry, personal hygiene stuff, clothing.... We're always looking for donations for the teen resource center or if people can donate skills. Some of the kids we're working with, kids have exited the foster care system and they are trying to live independently without a lot of skills or resources. Somebody who could put on a financial literacy workshop or to mentor a youth — we could match them up. If people have time and they want to invest in a youth, we can hook them up. If you want to run a clothing drive or a food drive for the teen resource center.... At this time of year, warm clothing is helpful. These kids are couch-surfing or they're on the streets and they don't have a place to call home.

[Zax touched on the staff members who are out in the community.]

I am in awe of them. ... They are the ones doing the risky stuff out in the community ... helping families figure out really tough issues. We have staff members who work in the women's prison and [Shea Farm Transitional Housing Unit], helping them move back into the community.... They're trying to help families learn the skills to get their kids back. I am in awe of these people. ... It's very satisfying for my '60s spirit to have found a place where I can work toward doing good stuff for folks who really need it.

—Jeff Mucciarone

Christmas is for Kids Radiothon

CFSNH hosts its 13th annual WZID Christmas is for Kids Radiothon on Thursday, Dec. 8, and Friday, Dec. 9, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. broadcast live from the Mall of New Hampshire in Manchester. The event generates money for kids who are struggling with homelessness, chronic health concerns, poverty or other challenges. People can call in their donations throughout the Radiothon or donate online at www.cfsnh.org/pages/ChristmasforKids.html. The event also features an online auction from Friday, Dec. 2, to Friday, Dec. 9, finishing at 4 p.m. Visit www.wzid.com.

QoL

DECEMBER 8, 2011

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Fewer bankruptcies

The number of bankruptcies in New Hampshire fell to 338 last month, which is 31 fewer than October and 90 fewer than November of last year. The total year-to-date filings are nearly 17 percent fewer than this time last year, and about even with the numbers at this time in 2008, according to a state press release. There were just three business bankruptcies in November. Improving the economic climate has been a top priority for the legislature this year. The House cut 12 taxes and fees and passed 43 bills designed to lessen the regulatory burden on New Hampshire employers.

QOL score: +2

Comment: "As we continue along this path of economic vitality we should see not only a reduction in bankruptcy filings but also an increase in private sector jobs and new businesses forming or migrating to New Hampshire," said Stephen Stepanek, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, in a statement.

Best state to get divorced

New Hampshire was recently ranked the "best state for getting a divorce" by Bloomberg.com. States were ranked on obstacles to obtaining a divorce, such as court filing fees, mandated separation periods, residency requirements, waiting periods and the minimum time required to complete the divorce process. The rate of 9.9 divorces per 1,000 people over age 15 wasn't particularly high, but New Hampshire scored well for its ease of processing. There is no minimum processing time or minimum residency.

QOL score: 0 (because one person's heartbreak is another person's fresh start)

Comment: *Emphasis, perhaps, on the "live free" part of our state motto.*

Are you happy? You should be

At least according to Men's Health magazine, which recently ranked Manchester the second-happiest city in the United States. That's right, we're behind only Honolulu (which if *Hawaii Five-O* has taught us anything has sunshine, beaches and girls in bikinis). The rankings were based on suicide rates, unemployment rates and the percentage of households using antidepressants. Manchester was ahead of Fargo, Omaha and Boston, which made the top 5. St. Petersburg, Fla., was ranked the saddest city in the country.

QOL score: +1

Comment: *Like we would tell Men's Health if we were using antidepressants.*

Not all the presidential candidates would agree

People love New Year's because it is a great time to start over. 2012 will be the year QOL finally gets a six pack, patents that invention and donates to charity. Turns out if you actually want to start your life over, Manchester is a good place to do it as well. It was recently ranked the 23rd-best city to start over by the Daily Beast. The rankings were based on ease of finding a job, high income level, low cost of living and friendliness to students, nonprofits and small businesses.

QOL score: +1

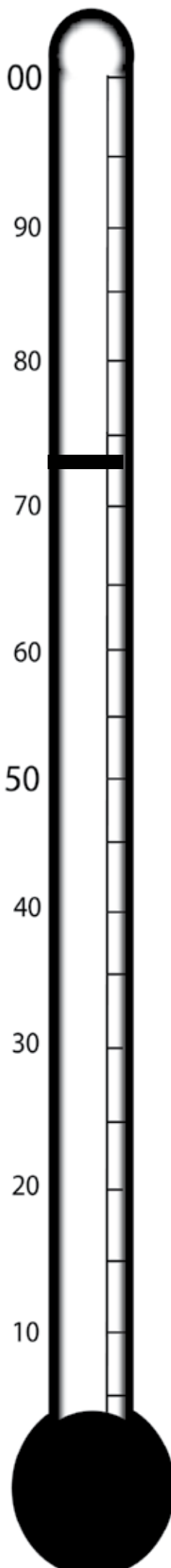
Comment: *The number one city was Austin, Texas. QOL will see you there Jan. 2 but remember, call us Clive Bigsby.*

QOL score: 69

Net change: +4

QOL this week: 73

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DAVE LONG'S HIPPO SPORTS

LONGSHOTS

Bobby Valentine and alleged bumbling by Sox ownership



So with the hiring of **Bobby Valentine** the Red Sox can finally look ahead after the train wreck season that concluded with the greatest September collapse in history and subsequent fallout. Or at least that's what we were told by the Boston media who beat the story into submission for nearly 12 weeks along the way.

During that time the Sox brass was made out to be bumbling idiots, the drinking in the clubhouse was vastly exaggerated, Valentine was made out to be a cross between Hitler and the great satan, as a story that was probably an 8.5 on a scale of 1 to 10 was blown up to about a 58. Even the nature of the collapse wasn't brought into context, as at the EXACT same time, the Braves were doing the EXACT same thing — only a half game less!

Not that mistakes weren't made, it wasn't a valid story, or that the Sox aren't nakedly transparent in the PR efforts, but owners should be judged for the body of work rather than over the last 30 seconds as was done here — though I should point out **Gordon Edes**, **Nick Cafardo** and **Peter Abraham** were three voices of reason throughout. So to provide a little context, here's a question: in the bowl you've got **Harry Frazee**, **Tom Yawkey**, **Buddy LeRoux**, **Haywood Sullivan**, **Jean Yawkey**, **John Harrington** and **John Henry**, and of the past Red Sox owners who would you take to be their owner today?

Harry Frazee — In addition to **Babe Ruth**, Frazee sent Hall of Fame pitchers **Herb Pennock**, **Waite Hoyt** and **Red Ruffing** along with two-time 20-game-winner **Carl Mays** to the Yankees as the Sox slid from the best team of baseball's first 20 years to one that didn't win for 86 years. So I guess he's out.

Tom Yawkey — loved a team that was pretty good from the late '30s into the early '50s and again from '67 to his death, but he was a probable racist who didn't hire an African-American for 12 years after baseball was integrated and who may have been the guy who shouted from the shadows, "Get that [N-word] out of here" when **Jackie Robinson** had a tryout at Fenway in 1946.

Buddy LeRoux — a former Celtics trainer who tried to impose an ownership coup d'état over **Haywood Sullivan** on the night the team

was honoring comatose former star **Tony Conigliaro**. Classy.

Haywood Sullivan — let **Fred Lynn**, **Rich Burleson** and **Carlton Fisk** walk for nothing in a tenure marked by bumbling from start to finish. Give him credit, though — he didn't put up a penny of his own money and walked out with \$37 million. Wish I were that much of a dope.

Jean Yawkey — Let's just say, hope her better days were behind her when she bought back into the team.

John Harrington — Jean's accountant who fell in a pile of manure and came up smelling like roses. Pushed **Joe Morgan** out, hired **Butch Hobson** and **Dan Duquette** and presided over a franchise that was crushed by the media in part because it made **Richard Nixon** in the final days seem like **David Letterman** compared to them.

John Henry — Yes, he owns a racing team and a soccer team, but he also saved Fenway, turned NESN into a real TV station, maintains a \$160 million payroll, continued spending even as his GM blew about half a billion dollars on bogus free agents, turned the fun of the Fenway experience into a zillion straight sell-outs and, oh by the way, won twice in 10 years.

And if you want to vote on the others in the mix to buy the team when Henry and Tom Werner got it, there's **Frank McCourt**, who put the Dodgers into bankruptcy, and the **Dolan Family**, who made the Knicks and Rangers a laughing stock, while brother **Larry** drove the Indians — who once sold out 455 straight games — right into the ground.

Now for Valentine and the much-ridiculed search. Sorry, I'm with **Larry Lucchino**: it's much more important to get the right guy than to go by the timetable of folks like us who said a lot about the way it ended in New York for Valentine (ugly and reminiscent of the end here) but not how or why as most went off their impressions without much digging to provide context to the story. Like:

"His .510 winning percentage isn't very good." But not that the .510 is better than **Buck Showalter**, **Casey Stengel**, **Felipe Alou**, **Jim Leyland** (exactly .500) and if you carry it out to six digits the sainted AND hallowed **Joe Maddon**!

Or that prior to being hired here **Terry Fran-**

cona's was just .440 or that if fans in Philly had their way they'd have run him out of town on a rail after calling him Fran-coma during his time as Phillies manager. Yet he got the job here, and won two titles.

They could have told you fans in Philly positively LOVE Tito compared to the way folks in Cleveland still think of **Bill Belichick**, where he was an unremarkable 36-44 (.45%). And do I need to remind anyone of the meltdown press conference when he looked like a mental case in resigning as HC of the NYJ's?

I heard this a little bit, but not all that much. In his first full season in Texas they went from 62 wins to 87 and with the Mets it was 71 to 88. That seems an important fact when considering what his impact could be in year one, especially since the supposedly bumbling Sox management got it right by giving him just a two-year deal, with two one-year options.

If he's so difficult to deal with, how come he lasted eight years with Texas and seven years with the Mets? Great managers rarely last that long in one place, let alone bad managers who are possibly related to Satan.

And why are folks who covered the Mets and actually know what he's like — **Kevin Kernan** and **Joel Sherman** of the Post, **Jon Heyman** now of SI but then of Newsday and NH alum **Mike Lupica** of the Daily News — saying he's a keeper or it's not a good development for the Yankees? An opinion also expressed by the only one in the Boston contingent who actually covered the Mets while Valentine was manager, the Globe's **Abraham**. He said in his blog, "During those years, I learned more about baseball than at any other time in my career," though he also said, "There are writers in New York, otherwise reasonable men, who would run a train over Bobby if they could."

So what's the bottom line? While they're not perfect, and deserved the hit for dropping the dime on Tito, I'll take this Sox owner over his predecessors. It was a bump in the road, now corrected I think. And the players weren't the only ones who stunk up the joint as the collapse story played out.

Dave Long can be e-mailed at dlong@hippo-press.com. He hosts Saturday Morning Sports with Dave Long from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays on WGAM — The Game 1250-AM in Manchester and 900-AM in Nashua.

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PEOPLE, PLACES & OTHER STUFF

It's heartbreak hotel for the U in Montana

The Big Story: The excruciating loss of the year, maybe so far in this decade, goes to the UNH football team that rallied to within one point with six seconds left in Saturday's game with Montana State only to see the extra point blocked to make them 26-25 losers and eliminate them from the NCAA playoffs. They got there on a furious last-ditch rally that culminated in a **Kevin (upper) Decker-to-Justin Mello** 29-yard touchdown pass that got them to within one, but it wasn't to be. As a result the U finishes the year at 8-4 while 10-2 Montana State moves on to face number-one seed Sam Houston State next week.

Sports 101: Who is dead last in the alphabetical order of the 672 people who have managed in major-league baseball? Hint — you know this!

Honors: UNH linebacker **Matt Evans** earned the Gold Helmet Award as the region's Division IAA (I know, Subdivision — but I hate that name) player of the year from the New England Football Writers last week. He is the fifth player in school history and first defensive player to earn the honor, which was also given to UNH running backs **Bill Burnham** (1977), **Jerry Azumah** (1996) and **Stephan Lewis** (2002) along with quarterback **Ricky Santos** (2005). Evans, the nation's leader in total tackles (154), tackles/game (14.0), solo tackles (88) and solo tackles/game (8.0), earns All-New England honors for the first time in his career.

Hired/Fired/Retired: Boy, that didn't take long. After getting fired on Sunday by the Washington Capitals, Monarchs alum **Bruce Boudreau** was out all of three days before being hired by the Anaheim Ducks to be their head coach on Wednesday.

The Numbers

3 — consecutive years gaining a bid to a BCS Bowl game for **Chip Kelly** and the Oregon Ducks, which is the longest streak in the nation.

6 — wins for the Denver Broncos since **Tim Tebow** (TeBow, TEBOW) took over as their starting quarterback 7 games ago when astonishingly the Broncos have scored their seven opponents by just one point!

7 — consecutive games won by the Manchester Monarchs

at the world famous Verizon Wireless Arena after beating the Worcester Sharks 2-1 in a seven-round shootout on Sunday to leave them 14-10-0-1 on the year.

32 — combined points scored by **Hannah Comeau** and **Brittany (no relation to Harry) Potter** as the Derryfield School opened its basketball season with a near Herman Cain-like win by scoring 9 and 9 in the first two quarters before amping it up to 13 and 10 the last two in

That's got to be a record turnaround. It's also got to be almost as head-spinning for **Randy Caryle**, who got fired in Anaheim after signing a three-year extension just three months ago.

Quote of the Week: This comes from a Thanksgiving Day Twitter fight between Dallas TV reporter **Newy Scruggs** and **Terrell Owens** via the WEEI.com mash-up after TO called Scruggs "fat," to which he wrote back, "So thankful my fat butt has a job, can pay for my kids, and isn't on TV CRYING about being broke. I'll get on a treadmill when you pay your child support." Ouch — and yes, Newy is a real person and not a made up name from the Beverly Hillbillies.

On This Date — Dec. 8: 1940 The first NFL championship game to be heard on national radio is won by the Chicago Bears 73-0 over the Washington Redskins. 1955 Brooklyn catcher **Roy Campanella** wins his third MVP Award. 1958 Arguably the greatest Red Sox player ever **Tris Speaker** dies at age 70. 1961 **Wilt Chamberlain** sets NBA record (now third-best) for most points in a game when he scores 78 in a triple-overtime win over the Lakers. 1966 In a terrible trade the Yankees send **Roger Maris** to the Cardinals for ex-Mets journeyman **Charlie Smith**. 1980 **Howard Cosell** announces to America on Monday Night Football that **John Lennon** has been assassinated in New York by **Mark David Chapman**. 1987 Current Manchester Monarchs President and then Philly Flyer **Ron (what the) Hextall** becomes the first goalie to score a goal.

Sports 101 Answer: Last on the managerial alpha list is none other than ex-Sox manager Don Zimmer.

a 43-32 win over Newmarket.

60.5 — percentage of voters in a Boston.com poll who said the choice of **Bobby Valentine** to be Red Sox manager was the correct one.

749 — days between first-place finishes by formerly omnipotent golf force **Tiger Woods** after rallying to with the Chevron World Challenge on Sunday for his first win since taking the Australian Masters on Nov. 15, 2009, a short time before the incident.

Sports Glossary

The Beverly Hillbillies: America's top-rated TV show between 1962 and 1964, followed the exploits of struck-it-rich Hillbillies who move from the backwoods to Beverly Hills, where Jed Clampett, moonshine-brewing Granny, oo-la-la Ellie Mae and doofus cousin Jethro live in a highfalutin mansion with a SEE-ment pond.

Fans in Philly: All you need to know is the football version: they booed Santa Claus on Christmas Day in the '70s at Veterans Stadium. Make fans in NY and Boston look like politically correct bow-tie-wearing financial supporters of PBS than the insane horde they really are compared to other fans around the country. So vociferous that they once inspired Phillies' best player, Richie Allen, to scroll the word B-O-O in gigantic letters in the dirt behind him at first base.

Sox' First African-American Player: Elijah Jerry Green, but you can call him Pumpsie. Spent parts of 4 seasons in Boston and 1 with the Mets when he hit .246 with 13 homers and 74 RBI in 344 games. Came to racially challenged Red Sox 12 years after Jackie Robinson in 1959, a year and a half after Willie Oree broke the color barrier in the NHL when he joined the Bruins in 1958. Still with us, 78 and living in Boley, Okla.

Boston 1 to 10 Media Scale: 1 — Sox start inning without knowing Manny is taking a leak inside the Green Monster instead of in leftfield where he should be. 2 — Rick Pitino walks out on team mid-way through his 4th failed season as Celtics coach under the cover of darkness in Miami. 3 — Rex Ryan plays a deranged, diehard Patriots fan in an upcoming film from local lad Adam Sandler. 4 — Pitino actually holds the press conference he promised to hold upon returning to Boston after walking out under the cover of darkness in Miami. 5 — If George Steinbrenner broke his hand punching an elevator wall at Fenway after a loss to the Sox rather than in NYC and to the Dodgers. 6 — Matador Pedro Martinez olés the charging septuagenarian Don Zimmer in Yankees-Red Sox brawl. 7 — Larry Bird unretires to play for the Lakers. 8 — Sox finish off historic 2011 collapse in loss to Orioles. 9 — Phil Esposito traded to NEW YORK for Brad Park and Jean Ratelle. 10 — Len Bias and Reggie Lewis die. 58 — Sox end 86-year drought by winning the World Series

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072247

Gifts for everyone

How you can help local charities

Not all gifts will require you to stand in line at the mall.

As you're checking off items on your gift list (and maybe adding a few to your wish list), you might also be thinking about how you can help others. This season of giving (and preparing for tax season) has many people thinking about the donations of time and treasure they've made throughout the year and other ways they can help out.

Lots of area nonprofits will be asking for year-end help. Good causes happy to receive something extra include local cultural organizations (think theaters, museums and others), nature- and wildlife-related groups, and organizations that include advocacy in their mission. Contact your favorite local group to find out more about their needs.

Looking for ideas? This year, we're looking at a few other groups you might want to add to your holiday gift list. Adam Coughlin looks at groups that offer a variety of health and wellness services. Jeff Mucciarone checks out some of the organizations that tend to the needs of seniors. Angel Roy looks at child-focused organizations. And Kelly Sennott looks at other groups that offer people in the community a hand when they need it. While everybody's happy to take money, many of these groups also have volunteer opportunities or items they are looking to have donated this holiday season (call for details). Looking to spread a little holiday cheer? Here are some ideas.



More help

Know of a good cause not listed here? Let us know at adiaz@hippopress.com. And keep an eye out for other groups looking for a little year-end bonus in spotlights in the Inside/Outside section in the next few weeks.

Lean times for health groups

Charities focused on medical issues and nutrition feel the pinch

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

The mind is often connected to the wallet, which is why during difficult economic times several local non-profits and charities have seen an increase in people needing services for mental and physical health. This spike comes as many of these programs lose funding as budgets are cut to address the economic problems. It is a catch-22 that leaves many residents in a bad situation.

The numbers are fairly staggering. Within the last six months, New Horizons for New Hampshire, which is a food pantry, soup kitchen and shelter all in one facility, has seen a 12-percent increase in people staying in its shelters, a 10-percent increase in people looking for groceries and a 10-percent increase in people coming for dinners, according to Charlie Sherman, executive director.

"We now provide groceries for 900 families per month," Sherman said. "We have 200 indi-

viduals coming for dinner each night and on average 70 people staying in our shelters."

Sherman said many of these additional people coming for dinner are families who are looking to save a few bucks each week by getting a free and healthy meal. Unfortunately, as needs have gone up, as have expenses to provide for food and staffing, federal and local aid has been cut and individual donations have gone down. Sherman said he is working hard trying to just match the level of expenses by going out into the community and finding new sources of revenue.

He said New Horizons could always benefit from financial and food donations. Sherman said his dream is that the doors of New Horizons could close because there was no need. Unfortunately, he doesn't see that happening any time in the near future. He said within the food baskets that New Horizons provides, people find all five food groups. Sherman said each month he finds more and more people he knows who are waiting in line for food. Sherman said no one who

finds themselves at a bump in the road should be embarrassed about reaching out for support.

"At New Horizons we're about respect and dignity," Sherman said.

Respect can also lead to understanding, which is important, especially this time of year.

"We have to recognize the impact finances have on people's mental wellness and ability to cope," said Ken Norton of the National Alliance on Mental Health New Hampshire (NAMI NH), which according to its website, naminh.org, "is dedicated to improving the quality of life of persons of all ages affected by mental illness and/or serious emotional disorders through education, support and advocacy."

"While the holidays are happy times for some families they can be incredibly difficult for others," Norton said. "I'd ask that you watch out for your neighbors and co-workers."

Norton admitted such prevention can be difficult. It is hard to understand the mental health of a co-worker without being intrusive. He said in New Hampshire we operate with a certain Yan-

Health, wellness and nutrition organizations

- **American Cancer Society** (Northern New England Region, 2 Commerce Drive, Suite 110, in Bedford, 472-8899, 1-800-640-7101, cancer.org) helps people facing cancer through early detection, treatment and education.

- **American Heart Association** (2 Wall St., Manchester, 669-5833, americanheart.org) helps to create healthier lives by eliminating heart diseases and strokes, which are the number one leading causes of death in New Hampshire.

- **American Lung Association of New England** (1800 Elm St., Manchester, 369-3977, lungne.org) focuses on clean, healthy air, tobacco control and all lung disease, and aims to save lives by improving lung health.

- **Amoskeag Urgent Dental Care** (324 S. Main St., Manchester, 627-2227, amoskeagurgentdentalcare.com) provides same-day dental care to people in Manchester, Portsmouth, Nashua, Concord and surrounding areas, and allows for payment plans that fit the patient.

- **The Caregivers Inc.** located in Bedford and Nashua provide transportation for health and medical care needs, including transportation to Boston, Burlington, Mass., and Hanover for those who need medical care outside southern New Hampshire. Caregivers also provide a grocery service called Food for the Homebound. They may also shop for individuals who cannot leave their home. Call the main office in Bedford (19 Harvey Road, Bedford) at 622-4948 or the satellite office in Nashua (491 Amherst St., Nashua) at 595-4502, or visit caregiversnh.org.

- **Catholic Medical Center** (100 McGregor St. in Manchester, catholicmedicalcenter.org, 668-3545) offers various programs. Call for information.

- **Community Bridges** (2 Whitney Road in Concord, 225-4153, www.communitybridgesnh.org) "connects individuals with disabilities and their families with resources to help them achieve positive growth and change," according to a press release. Programs serve people of all ages and financial backgrounds, the release said.

- **Concord Hospital** (250 Pleasant St. in Concord, concordhospital.org, 225-2711) has various supportive programs. Call for information.

- **Easter Seals NH** (555 Auburn St. in Manchester, 623-8863, nh.easterseals.com) works to ensure that people with disabilities and their families have equal opportunity to live, learn, work and play. Easter Seals NH has 22 locations throughout New Hampshire and helps more than 23,000 individuals a year.

- **Elliot Hospital** (One Elliot Way in Manchester, 669-5300, elliithospital.org) offers many programs. Call for information.

- **Families First Health and Support Center** (100 Campus Drive, Portsmouth, 422-8208 ext. 3, familiesfirstseacoast.org) has one of the only community health centers that provide on-site dental care. It's open to established patients of Families First Health Center, children and teens living in New Hampshire or Maine and clients of The Krempels Center or AIDS Response-Seacoast.

- **The Friendly Kitchen** (currently serving at Sacred Heart Parish, 52 Pleasant St., Concord, 224-7678, thefriendlykitchen.org) is the only soup kitchen in Concord and has a simple goal of feeding the hungry. Earlier this year the Friendly Kitchen suffered a three-alarm fire at its former home at 14 Montgomery St., Concord.

- **Greater Manchester AIDS Project** (170 Lowell St. in Manchester, 226-0607, mvap.org) supports and assists people infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS through direct assistance, advocacy and education. It also looks to prevent new infections by promoting safer practices and dispelling stereotypes about HIV/AIDS.

- **Home Health & Hospice Care** (7 Executive Drive, Merrimack, 882-2941, hhhc.org) enhances quality of life by visiting hospice patients in a variety of environments, including homes, nursing home and assisted living facilities, hospitals and the Community Hospice House. See hhhcvolunteers.org/volunteer or call 557-2806. HHHC has offices in Manchester, Merrimack and Concord.

- **March of Dimes - NH Chapter** (22 Bridge St. in Concord, 228-0317, marchofdimes.com/newhampshire) improves baby health by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality through research, community activities, education and advocacy.

- **Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester** (401 Cypress St., Manchester, 668-4111, mhcgcm.org) provides mental health services to children, teenagers, adults and seniors in Manchester, Bedford, Goffstown, New Boston, Hooksett, Auburn, Candia and Londonderry, and has been active for more than 50 years.

- **Moore Center** (195 McGregor St., #400, Manchester, 206-2700, moorecenter.org) helps people with developmental and intellectual disabilities and acquired brain injuries to become productive and fulfilled members of society.

- **NAMI NH** (National Alliance on Mental Ill-

ness New Hampshire, 15 Green St. in Concord, 225-5359, naminh.org) works on behalf of people with mental illness by educating and advocating for their rights and benefits.

- **Nashua Soup Kitchen** (42 Chestnut St., Nashua, 889-7770, nsks.org) provides food and shelter for those in need. It serves breakfast Monday through Friday and dinner seven days a week, averaging 1,700 meals each week.

- **New Hampshire Food Bank** (700 E Industrial Park Drive, Manchester, 669-9725, nhfoodbank.org) is the only food bank in the state and distributes donated food to more than 400 food pantries, shelters, senior citizen homes, etc. across the state. It is a program of New Hampshire Catholic Charities.

- **New Horizons for New Hampshire** (199 Manchester St., Manchester, 668-1877, newhorizonsformh.org) is the only facility in the state that includes a food pantry, soup kitchen and shelter. It provides groceries for 900 families per month.

- **NH Association for the Blind** (McGreal Sight Center, 25 Walker St., Concord, 856-7615, sightcenter.com) provides services for blind and visually impaired citizens, including driving, reading of mail, etc.

- **Red Cross** (redcross.org; Greater Manchester Chapter, 425 Reservoir Ave., Manchester, 625-1951; NH Gateway Chapter, 28 Concord St., Nashua, 889-6664, nashua.redcross.org; Granite Chapter Office, 2 Maitland St., Concord, 225-6697, concord-redcross.org) helps "everyone in the state prevent, prepare for, and respond to disasters and other life-threatening emergencies," according to its website.

- **Southern NH AIDS Task Force** (12 Amherst St. in Nashua, 595-8464, aidstaskforcenh.org) is the only HIV/AIDS service organization in the Greater Nashua area and it works to increase knowledge, services and resources on the issue.

- **Southern New Hampshire Medical Center** (downtown Nashua, 577-2000, snhhs.org) offers various supportive programs. Call for information.

- **St. Joseph Hospital** (172 Kinsley St. in Nashua, 882-3000, stjosephhospital.com) has various programs. Call for information.

- **Visiting Nurse Association** of Manchester and Southern New Hampshire (33 S. Commercial St., Suite 401, in Manchester, 622-3781, manchestervna.org) helps residents recover from surgery, physical disabilities, and bad health without having to leave their homes.



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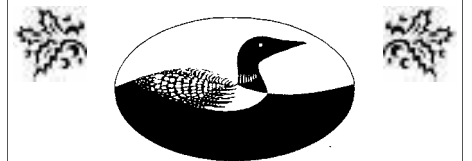
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A person enjoying the services of the Moore Center. Courtesy photo.

kee reserve, but we are willing to help when people are in need. He suggested asking directly, depending on your relationship with your co-worker. If you know his wife has been unemployed for months, ask how things are going. Norton said offering your support and compassion opens the door and allows the person to say yes or no. Norton suggested being aware of the difficulties people are going through and the effect that can have on mental illness, which he said affects one in four people.

“Give thought to the usual gift exchange,” Norton said. “People may not be in a position to give gifts.”

Norton said it is time to re-think the exchange and perhaps collect money into a pool and then give back to those in need. He suggested families could draw names from a hat and get a present only for that person.

Norton suggested good-hearted people make donations to local soup kitchens and other organizations that directly support people in need. He said NAMI NH could always use money but it spends more time on advocacy and education and doesn't do as much direct support. He said most people want their donations to go directly to someone to help them through the holiday season.

Norton isn't alone in his findings. David Johnson, marketing and communication manager at the Moore Center in Manchester, said he has seen a natural increase in demand for services because of the challenging economy. Johnson said the Moore Center helps people with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as acquired brain disorders.

Johnson said many of the Moore Center's clients are living independently for the first time, which means donations such as furnishings, kitchen utensils and other things that could be used in apartments are greatly appreciated. He said monetary donations, which can be made online or by calling 206-2722, are also needed. He said money would go toward ser-

vices for families and individuals. The Moore Center has expanded and offers assistance for youth and seniors now as well.

While the need is on the rise, the Moore Center, like so many organizations that work with mental health, will see budget cuts come into effect during the next fiscal year, specifically in its family support programs.

Johnson said rough economic times don't mean that more people will suddenly have more intellectual disabilities, but he did say that it means the Center's clients will need more assistance.

“There are more families trying to make ends meet,” Johnson said.

This is a sentiment echoed by people who are working with AIDS and HIV. Luckily, in the state of New Hampshire there is a low incidence of people suffering from HIV. A bad economy, where people lose their jobs, doesn't mean that suddenly more people will have HIV, according to Wendy LeBlanc, assistant director at the Southern NH AIDS Task Force. Unfortunately, when there is that economic change, many people who are struggling with the disease, which has huge medical costs associated with it, can lose their ability to be self-sufficient.

“When they lose their job, they most likely lose their health insurance as well,” LeBlanc said.

As a result, LeBlanc said, the easiest and most direct way to support the Southern NH AIDS Task Force is to donate financial support, which will go to the Task Force's various programs, such as making sure all clients have safe and affordable housing and transportation.

Besides money, LeBlanc said they would graciously accept food and personal hygiene products — “Things we normally take for granted.” LeBlanc said everyone, not just people with HIV, could benefit from a healthier diet and so she encouraged, as did Sherman, donors to think healthy when they're making their food contributions.

Food — and time

Seniors need access to meals and companionship

By Jeff Mucciarone
jmucciarone@hippopress.com

Sometimes needy seniors get lost in the flux. Families are so busy preparing for the holidays, they might not always give the attention to seniors that they need, officials say. But there are organizations out there keeping an eye on seniors and making sure their needs are met.

It hasn't always been easy. A down economy, combined with greater need for services, has put pressure on nonprofit organizations.

“More elderly and disabled people are looking for food,” said Donny Guillemette, president and CEO of The CareGivers (www.caregiversnh.org), a Bedford-based nonprofit working to assist seniors and disabled folks right in their homes. “The needs have increased dramatically. Our food pan-



try has more than doubled in the last couple years. We're on course to distribute 100,000 pounds of food by the end of the year."

Across the board, donations are down for The CareGivers. The CareGivers serve about 750 clients in the greater Manchester and Nashua areas. The organization has seen the needs of its clients increase because of the economic climate, Guillemette said. One of The CareGivers' largest programs is Caring Cupboards, which is like a mobile food pantry for home-bound seniors. That's an area where Guillemette has seen an increase in need.

Meals on Wheels has also seen a large increase in need for its services, and it too is looking for help through this tough time. Meals on Wheels typically serves elderly residents, but it serves people with disabilities as well. "It's been a very difficult year for us," said Rebecca Fregeau, development assistant with Meals on Wheels. She noted that last year the program served 59,000 meals more than the state funded. "One of the reasons we're able to continue is because we have such a large volunteer base. Without them, we wouldn't survive," Fregeau said.

The Meals on Wheels (www.mealsonwheelsnh.org) program needs volunteers to assemble gift bags for the holidays, drivers to deliver the meals and gift bags,

office help and kitchen help. Last year there were approximately 595 volunteers working with Meals on Wheels. Fregeau added that some volunteers have been working for the program for 30 years now. Donations have come in slowly for Easter Seals New Hampshire's (nh.easterseals.com) seniors programs so far this holiday season. Melissa Murphy, who directs Easter Seals' Seniors Count program, said there have been a couple calls from people looking for ways to help out seniors in the community.

Seniors Count, which works with frail seniors to keep them independent, is just one of Easter Seals' senior-oriented programs. There is also an adult day program with more than 100 clients, as well as Caring Companions, which provides in-home non-medical assistance to more than 400 clients, Murphy said.

Money is always helpful, but so are time and effort. Simple things like snow shoveling can go a long way, particularly for seniors who can't get out to shovel their own driveways and don't have the means to hire someone, Murphy said.

"If someone is willing to snowplow for seniors who can't afford to pay, if there's a company out there that wants to help out one or two seniors, that would be a huge bonus," Murphy said.

Help for seniors

- **The CareGivers, Inc.** (19 Harvey Road in Bedford, 622-4948, caregiversnh.org) provides a variety of services to the elderly and the disabled in their homes, including transportation, grocery service and a mobile food pantry.

- **Easter Seals NH** (555 Auburn St. in Manchester, 623-8863, nh.easterseals.com) has a number of services designed to help seniors, including an adult day program, Seniors Count, which works with frail seniors to keep them in their homes, and Caring Companions, an in-home respite care program.

- **Home Health and Hospice Care** (7 Executive Park Drive in Merrimack, 593 Maple St. in Manchester, and 210 Naticook Road in Merrimack, 882-2941, www.hhnc.org) includes a visiting nurse association, hospice and its own community hospice house. It serves the population from birth to death. It works with seniors to help them continue to live in their homes.

- **Meals on Wheels** (395 DW Highway in Merrimack, 424-9967, www.mealsonwheelsnh.org) provides meals — more than 1,000 meals daily in Hillsborough County — to homebound seniors.

- **New Hampshire Hospice and Palliative Care Organization** (125 Airport Road in Concord, 415-4298, www.nhhpc.org) works to improve end-of-life care within the community, while also supporting the family.


- **Visiting Angels** (11 Northeastern Blvd. Suite 220 in Nashua, 821-0277, www.visitingangels.com/nashua/home) is part of a national network of non-medical, private duty home care agencies that provide care to the elderly in their homes. It serves the Nashua, Merrimack and Hudson areas.

- **Visiting Angels** (14 Hooksett Road, Auburn, 483-8999, visitingangels.com) provides non-medical senior home care in Manchester and Derry areas.

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Gift cards, particularly to places like Rite Aid or CVS, are helpful, since it helps seniors with co-pays, Murphy said.

“A lot of them are on limited incomes and they have a really difficult time paying for prescriptions,” Murphy said. “They have to choose between food and medicine.”

The adult day program at Easter Seals could use craft materials, like watercolor paints, acrylic paints, paper, crossword puzzles and puzzle books. While Easter Seals receives nonperishable food to help out seniors, it could use a three- or four-cubic-foot refrigerator and freezer. Staff members do pick up food at the Food Bank, but right now they can’t refrigerate items, so protein and dairy products can be lacking. If they had the ability to refrigerate them, it could be easier to get those products out to seniors, Murphy said.

But cash is always helpful. As part of Seniors Count, Easter Seals has an emergency flex fund, which allows Easter Seals to pitch in and help a senior pay his or her electric bill because he or she fell behind — it helps with one-time expenses for seniors in need.

At Home Health and Hospice Care (www.hhhc.org), cash is king when it comes to donations.

“In truth, the agency really needs contributions, especially this time of year,” said Tina Andrade, director of development for Home Health and Hospice Care. “Contributions really go directly for caring, for people at the worst times in their lives.”

“We have very, very loyal donors who really understand the critical nature of what we do and how it impacts the quality of life in our southern New Hampshire community,” Andrade added.

Home Health and Hospice Care consists of a large visiting nurse association and hospice, as well as its own community hospice house in Merrimack. Serving most of southern New Hampshire and a little bit of northern Massachusetts, the organization takes care of a huge population from birth until death. Of course, a large portion of the population it serves are elderly folks, particularly ones with chronic diseases, like heart disease, diabetes or chronic pulmonary diseases. The goal is to help seniors continue to live in their homes, Andrade said.

The organization, which was founded in 1883 in Nashua, also hosts a foot clinic in Merrimack, which helps take care of people’s feet and toes — particularly important for people who have diabetes. The organization runs the clinic at a minimal cost, Andrade said.

“Despite the fact that most elderly folks have Medicare and Medicaid, none of those really cover what it takes to care for people,” Andrade said. “What we depend on is a caring community. The contributions to our organization have really allowed us to continue serving the community. A lot of people are falling through the insurance cracks, more than ever before. In a year, we may have to give out close to a quarter of a million dollars in free or subsidized health care. We can only do that through contributions.”

Andrade said the organization can often respond quickly to people in need, whether the problem is a lack of food, a lack of bedding, or needing a fan in 95-degree weather.

“We’re really soldiers on the ground,” Andrade said. “Even though many organizations can respond to those needs eventually, and we always work with other community agencies, we do have restrictive funds ...

that we can just access ... to help people out in that moment, and that makes all the difference in the world.”

To make contributions go as far as possible, Andrade said Home Health and Hospice Care keeps overhead low. It relies on more than 300 volunteers who perform a variety of tasks, some rather specialized. Volunteers will sit vigil with a hospice patient at the community hospice house — sometimes a 24-hour-per-day job. During the spring, summer and fall, volunteers help care for the organization’s garden at the community hospice house. Volunteers take elderly people to medical appointments or they do the grocery shopping, which helps the client remain independent. They might simply spend time with an elderly person, playing chess or Scrabble or just chatting, Andrade said. Home Health and Hospice Care also has a set of bereavement groups, for spousal loss and loss of family members, that are run by trained volunteers.

The CareGivers step up their efforts to make sure seniors aren’t forgotten in the hubbub of the holidays. The organization has a giving tree for clients, and it reaches out to the community to ask people to purchase relatively small gifts, such as crossword puzzles, slippers and bathrobes. The CareGivers will be distributing about 250 different presents during the season, Guillemette said. Call 622-4948 to see what gifts are needed.

The CareGivers also need volunteers to help with the mobile food pantry — packing food, delivering food. If someone is looking for a longer-term volunteering opportunity, the organization can match people up with a client.

Granting wishes

Kids’ groups seek to make dreams come true

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

When chief executive officer Julie Baron joined the Make A Wish Foundation NH staff seven years ago, the organization was granting 40 wishes a year. Now the group averages 90 wishes annually and is getting ready to grant its 1,000 wish in January, exactly 25 years after its first wish-granting.

“We’re on a mission not to stop until every child in New Hampshire that is eligible each year gets a wish,” Baron said. “That’s our goal. We’re working toward that and the more community support we get, the more we get to do that.”

Like most youth-focused organizations and charities, the Make A Wish Foundation is heavily reliant on donations from the communities it serves. The organization had a fundraising goal of \$1.6 million this year, an amount Baron said it is nowhere near reaching.

“I’m sure I’m in the same spot as everyone else where we need donations to grant wishes,” Baron said. Children ages 2½ to 18, if referred to the program by their 18th birthday, who have been diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition are eligible to have their “one heartfelt wish” granted, Baron said. Wishes costs an average of \$10,000 and are granted by the organization every two and a half days.

A play area in a back yard or a playhouse is only one example of a popular wish among

the children served by the Make A Wish Foundation. To make the wish a reality, the organization, primarily volunteers, works with the community and contractors to build the playhouse and a reveal party is planned. A playhouse built for a child last summer boasted two floors, a reading room, a kitchen, 14 windows and furniture.

“We try to under-promise and over-deliver,” Baron said. “It’s a memory and something special the children will have that’s all their own.”

Donations to Make A Wish tend to be lower in the winter months as donors often have many charities to choose from, Baron said. The winter months — January, February and March — are also the busiest time for the organization as it tries to plan most of its wishes for February school vacation.

The Concord Boys & Girls Club has been able to raise more money in recent years through labor-intensive methods targeting individual donors “versus one government contract that might come and go,” said Christopher Emond, executive director. And while in the last two years the club has opened a satellite location in Warner and started an environmental services program for high school students, at the end of the day the club still needs more funding, he said.

The philosophy of the Boys & Girls Club is to charge minimal fees to maintain its accessibility to the youth who benefit from its services, Emond said. Many Boys & Girls Clubs across the United States are able to

charge as little as \$5 a year to its neediest members. The Concord branch of the organization is unable to do that and has instead implemented a weekly fee format.

“It’s OK if you can’t pay but there are a lot of people that are so proud that when they can’t afford the fee, they just stop going,” Emond said. “Those are the ones we worry about the most.”

Emond said this has been the busiest year at the club in a long time but that part of it is a result of successful fundraising, which has allowed for more needy children to enroll in its programming.

“There is a lot of need out there ... there are truly some pocket neighborhoods up here that are really experiencing some bad times,” Emond said.

Fees at the club start at \$60 a week and in some cases are reduced to \$5 a week, an amount that most assume to be affordable but Emond said when users of the club have more than one child benefiting from its services, the financial difficulty increases.

“They literally have to pick and choose which of their kids go to the club,” he said.

The Boys & Girls Club is more than a childcare center, Emond noted. The club is a safe place for children in that it provides a nourishing environment that is safe from bullying and abusive home situations. It is also a place where children can express themselves. The club tries to provide the youth it serves with adult role models and opportunities that they might not have been otherwise privy to



Children working in a garden at Concord Boys & Girls Club. Courtesy photo.

— the club annually awards one student a four-year scholarship to attend Bishop Brady High School.

“When you don’t have a lot of money your

world is very closed,” Emond said. “It’s your house, it’s your school, it’s your neighborhood ... how you show kids there is a lot more opportunity than just their small little

Groups helping kids

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters** (25 Lowell St., Manchester, 669-5365; 33 Main St., Nashua, 883-4851, bbbs.org) is a nationwide organization focused on mentoring youth, primarily children from single-parent homes. Volunteers spend a minimum of four hours a month with the child they are matched with.
- **Boys & Girls Club** (55 Bradley St., Concord, 224-1061, concordkids.org; 40 Hampstead Road, Derry, 434-6695, bgca.org; 555 Union St., Manchester, 625-5031, mbgcnh.org; 56 Mont Vernon Road, Milford, 672-1002, svbgc.org; 47 Grand Ave., Nashua, 883-0523, bgcn.org; 3 Geremonty Drive, Salem, 898-7709, salembgc.org) provides youth development programs for children ages 6 to 18 after school and during the summer.
- **Boy Scouts of America** (571 Holt Ave., Manchester, 625-6431, nhscouting.org; Bedford, bedfordtroop5.com; Merrimack, pack424nh.org; Nashua, troop19.org; Salem, pack409.com) is an organization dedicated to instilling values in young men and preparing them to make ethical choices.
- **Child and Family Services of NH** (464 Chestnut St., Manchester, 518-4000, cfsnh.org) focuses on the well-being of children by providing social services. The organization also offers support groups for parents and families.
- **The Cinderella Project of New Hampshire** (266 Deerfield Road, Allenstown, 210-1415, thecinderellaprojectofnh.org) collects donated new and gently worn formal dresses and distributes them to financially disadvantaged high school students so they can attend their high school formal in style.
- **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)** (138 Coolidge Ave., Manchester, 626-4600, casanh.org) recruits volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children. Volunteers work with families, social workers and the justice system to put children in safe, permanent homes.
- **Girls Inc.** (39 Green St., Concord, 223-0087; 340 Varney St., Manchester, 623-1117; 27 Burke St., Nashua, 882-6256, girlsincenewhampshire.org) is a nonprofit organization that empowers young girls and needs volunteers to read, share talents in class, tutor or help with homework.
- **Girl Scouts** (One Commerce Dr., Bedford, 627-4158, girlscoutsgwm.org; Bedford, ann_sager@comcast.net; Chester, chesternh.org; Pelham, pelhamweb.org/girlscouts) is an organization that strives to build courage, confidence and character in girls.
- **Goodwill GoodGuides** (Manchester, 625-5471; Concord, 369-3010) recruits volunteer mentors to work with youth ages 13 through

- 17 who are at risk for making harmful choices such as dropping out of school or are at risk for delinquency.
- **Make A Wish** (814 Elm St., Suite 300, Manchester, 623-9474, www.newhampshire.wish.org) grants wishes to eligible children ages 2½ to 18 who have been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness.
- **March of Dimes NH** (228-0317) focuses on research, community services, education and advocacy to prevent birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.
- **Nashua PAL Bingo** Anyone who can spare one Wednesday night per month to benefit Nashua’s inner-city kids can volunteer at Nashua PAL Bingo. The dollars raised sustain the programs offered to kids at the Nashua Police Athletic League (PAL). Call the PAL volunteer coordinator at 566-4515 or e-mail ggrabeau@gmail.com.
- **Special Olympics** (650 Elm St., Manchester, 624-1250, sonh.org) hosts athletic competitions and provides year-round sports training for children (and adults) with disabilities. The Special Olympics also offers a Young Athletes Program designed for children ages 2 to 7.
- **Speedway Children’s Charity** (New Hampshire Motor Speedway, 1122 Route 106 North, Loudon, 513-5738, newhampshire.speedwaycharities.org) raises money to help children in need, whether it be educational, financial or medical, lead productive lives.
- **Spiral Scouts** (588-4219, spiralscouts.org) is a co-ed scouting group that promotes the idea of children and parents working together. The club also focuses on religious tolerance, interfaith cooperation, personal responsibility and ecological education and conservation.
- **YMCA** (30 Mechanic St., Manchester, 623-3558, yogm.org; 116 Goffstown Back Road, Goffstown, 497-4663, yogm.org; 206 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 437-9622, yogm.org; 24 Stadium Drive, Nashua, 882-2011, nmymca.org; 6 Henry Clay Drive, Merrimack, 881-7778, nmymca.org; 15 N. State St., Concord, 228-9622, concordymca.org) focuses on youth development, physical health and wellness, healthy living and responsibility.
- **YWCA** (72 Concord St., Manchester, 625-5785; 6 W. Broadway, Derry, 432-2687, ywcanh.org) works with at-risk children and their parents and caregivers and offers programs that focus on prevention. The organization also offers two Victim Services programs, one to provide support for victims of sexual violence and another to provide supervised visitation for safe parent-child interaction.

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world is by giving them opportunities at the club.”

“People say, ‘Where does your money go?’ Those three areas are what the funds go to support,” he said.

Like the Concord Boys & Girls Club, the YMCAs in Nashua and Merrimack have seen more families needing financial support to take advantage of services and programs.

“Fortunately we can be here to be able to help them,” said Michael LaChance, chief executive officer of the Nashua and Merrimack YMCAs. “We try not to turn anybody away because of their inability to pay.”

The Nashua YMCA has tripled the number of families it serves since opening a new facility six months ago, and LaChance said it has been serving more people with financial needs than ever before.

The YMCA offers a sliding fee scale for struggling families year-round, and during the holidays a giving tree is set up at both the

Nashua and Merrimack locations. Members of the community can stop by the facility and select a tag from the tree bearing a gift request (most are in the \$20-to-\$30 range, LaChance said) for the children of those needy families.

“We typically serve 300 children each holiday season,” LaChance said of the giving tree. “It’s fantastic to see the parents come in a couple of days before Christmas to pick up the gifts that members of the community brought in for their children — the expressions on their face.”

To be eligible for financial assistance and for the gift drive, families must present documentation to show there is truly a need, LaChance said. “People don’t just wander in off the street,” he added.

When families get busy it can be difficult for them to make sure their children have everything they need in terms of support services, leaving organizations like the YMCA and Boys & Girls Club to step in to provide

such services as homework assistance and expand on other basic school skills, Emond said.

LaChance said he has seen an increase in children visiting the facility after school, as their parents have had to pick up an extra job to stay afloat.

“After-school hours are the riskiest hours of the day in terms of trouble,” LaChance said. “Those are the most unsupervised times [for kids].”

The Nashua and Merrimack YMCAs have been able to raise a total of \$1 million from members and the community over the last three years to provide financial assistance for those in need, LaChance said.

“There are always more things we could do as youth serving organizations,” LaChance said. “You never have enough money to be able to do everything you want to do.”

Giving the basics

For some groups it’s about the necessities

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

It’s the season of giving, and typically we give our loved ones items we think they will enjoy most. Girlfriends get jewelry, Dad gets a tool belt, and children get toys.

So why would someone want socks, or better yet, toilet paper for Christmas?

Many community support agencies say people are extremely generous when it comes to donating presents for the holiday season. Most agencies have enough resources to provide their clients’ children with gifts this year. What many are lacking are basic resources, such as warm clothes, food and toiletries.

“People are so generous when it comes to holiday support, but what we really need most is ongoing support for regular items, such as cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, soap, etc.,” said Beverly Doolan, the director of development and public relations at Marguerite’s Place, which houses homeless women and their children and helps them move on to better lives. The childcare program is currently one of the few in the agency where there are openings, and it will almost always take in new clients.

Marguerite’s Place welcomes donations of all sorts. People interested in volunteering should attend a monthly meeting, which occurs on the third Tuesday of every month — see the specific times on the agency’s website, www.margueritesplace.org.

Recent state budget cuts have affected a number of nonprofits. Marguerite’s Place has noticed an increase in the number of help requests, and Harbor Homes in Nashua also noted a change.

“Across the board, there is an increase in need, especially in emergency shelter,” said Vanessa Sarlo, the director of grants development at Harbor Homes. “The state budget cuts have definitely affected the number of people we can serve, but we do the very best that we can with what we have,” Sarlo said.

Sarlo said that the partnership has also been able to ensure that the children of the clients all receive Christmas gifts; however, Harbor Homes currently does not have the in-house capacity to ensure that all 700 adult clients receive the resources they



Little Jaylene enjoys being part of the childcare program at Marguerite’s Place in Nashua.

need, which in most cases means adequate food and clothing. Gift card donations for the partnership at 45 High St. for clothes or groceries would therefore be enormously appreciated. People can also donate at www.harborhomes.org.

The agency has been at work helping its clients. The Welcoming Light Institute through Harbor Homes held “Project Homeless Connect” on Tuesday, Dec. 6, providing homeless individuals with access to medical, housing, social service, and employment resources. The agency’s Thanksgiving dinner drew in more people than it has in years past, with lines out the door.

Sarlo also noted that was a much younger population than the Partnership is accustomed to seeing at the Thanksgiving Day event; many of those who came in appeared to be under 30.

Nashua’s Harbor Homes isn’t the only agency that is seeing an increased need in help and a change in client population.

“The numbers are increasing. We have more families at FIT, as opposed to just singles, who are coming in for help,” said Pamela Punksy, the volunteer and VISTA

manager at Families in Transition.

This year, Families in Transition is encouraging people to donate to its annual fund, which can be accessed on its website, www.fitnh.org. FIT too is set with children’s gifts but has clients who are still lacking basic necessities, such as towels, pots, pans clothes and bedding. FIT also relies on donations for its OutFITters thrift store and its Concord women’s clothing boutique. All proceeds from this thrift store, which sells new and gently used items at low prices, go straight into the FIT program.

Those who don’t have the extra change to spare can volunteer their time instead, said Michel Talwani, the head of FIT’s marketing department. The OutFITters thrift store has a small staff and is always in need of volunteers. The Youth Department is also looking for helpers in preschool classes and after-school programs in Manchester schools, and a new FIT program, the Lower Street Dinner program, that helps FIT provide hot meals to participants five nights a week. E-mail volunteer@fitnh.org or call 935-7900 x 1719 to make a difference.



(top) Manchester Memorial High School volunteers for New Hampshire's Families in Transition Program fold and organize clothes at the agency's OutFitters thrift store, which sells new and gently used items at discounted prices. Courtesy photo.

Community support organizations

- **Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire** (545 Route 101 Bedford, 472-3647, www.rescueleague.org). The animal shelter will take in new pets on a limited basis and offers pet adoption and pet education.
- **Angie's** (434 Union St., Manchester, 668-8698, www.newhorizonsformh.org) is an emergency shelter for homeless women run by New Horizons in addition to its shelter, food pantry and soup kitchen.
- **Anne-Marie House** (180 Lowell Road, Hudson, 883-7338, www.annemariehouse.org) supports homeless families as they work to achieve a sustainable income, housing and transportation.
- **Bridges: Domestic & Sexual Violence Support** (33 E. Pearl St., Nashua, 889-0858; 16 Elm St., Milford, 672-9833; www.bridgesnh.org) offers assistance (including emergency shelter, education and court advocacy) to survivors of domestic and sexual violence.
- **Concord-Merrimack County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals** (130 Washington St. Penacook, www.concordspca.org, 753-6751) is a shelter offering adoption and other programs.
- **Good News Garage** (325 Merrill St., Manchester, www.goodnewsgarage.org, 877-488-3288) takes donated cars and repairs them so they can be provided to low-income families.
- **Easter Seals** (555 Auburn St., Manchester, 623-8863, www.eastersealsnh.org) serves people with disabilities and their families, so that they might have equal opportunity to live, learn, work and play within their communities.
- **Families In Transition** (122 Market St., Manchester, 641-944, www.fitnh.org) aims to provide safe, affordable housing and comprehensive social services to individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, further enabling them to gain self-sufficiency and respect.
- **Friends of the Manchester Animal Shelter** (490 Dunbarton Road, Manchester, 628-3544, www.manchesteranimalshelter.org) uses volunteers to handle dog walking, kennel cleaning, cat cage cleaning, adoptions and special needs.
- **Habitat for Humanity** (250 Commercial St., Manchester, 626-3944, www.habitatmanchester.org; Concord, 228-3001, capital_region_hfh@yahoo.com; PO Box 159, Nashua, 883-0295, www.nashuahabitat.org;) builds and rehabilitates homes for low-income families.
- **Harbor Homes** (45 High St., 882-3616, Nashua, www.harborhomes.org) provides housing, employment and healthcare services for those who are homeless or living with disabilities.
- **The Humane Society of Greater Nashua** (24 Ferry Road, Nashua, 889-2275, www.hsfh.org) operates a shelter and provides pet adoption services and other programs.
- **Manchester Animal Shelter** (90 Dunbarton Road, Manchester, 628-3544, manchesteranimalshelter.org) operates a shelter and provides spay/neuter services, adoption services, a pet food pantry and more.
- **Marguerite's Place** (87 Palm St., Nashua, 598-1582, www.margueritesplace.org) aims to empower homeless women with children to move on to better lives. The transitional housing program offers furnished apartments for up to 24 months, on-site licensed child care for children, life skills programs, and assistance in acquiring skills necessary for independence.
- **Nashua Pastoral Care** (7 Concord St., Nashua, 886-2866, www.nashuanpcc.org) assists families at risk of becoming homeless with rent, utilities, food, transportation, medicine and education.
- **New Hampshire Catholic Charities** (215 Myrtle St., Manchester, 800-562-5249, www.nh-cc.org) runs the NH Food Bank and offers services for pregnant teens and teen parents, immigrant and refugee services, health and senior services and counseling services.
- **New Horizons Emergency Shelter** (199 Manchester St., Manchester 668-1877, newhorizonsformh.org) provides food, shelter and supportive services to people in need.
- **Salvation Army** (121 Cedar St., Manchester, 627-7013; 58 Clinton St., Concord, 225-5586; 1 Montgomery Ave., Nashua, 883-7841; 18 Folsom Road, Derry, 434-7790; www.use.salvationarmy.org) provides support, food, shelter, clothing and assistance to those in need. It accepts donations of clothing and furniture.
- **United Way** (228 Maple St., Manchester, 625-6939, www.heritageunitedway.org) works to raise money to invest in education, health, wellness and economic self-sufficiency in communities.

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073626

THIS WEEK

EVENTS TO CHECK OUT DECEMBER 8 - 14, 2011, AND BEYOND



Saturday, Dec. 10

Get suggestions for delicious holiday treats at Water Street Bookstore, 125 Water St. in Exeter, 778-9231, www.waterstreetbooks.com, today at 2 p.m. at a signing for Judy Rosenberg’s new book *The Rosie’s Bakery All-Butter, Cream-Filled, Sugar-Packed Baking Book*. (Her previous *Rosie’s Bakery All-Butter, Fresh Cream, Sugar-Packed, No-Holds-Barred Baking Book* is a must-have for home bakers). Books will be available for purchase (and subsequent drooling over).



Saturday, Dec. 10

Head to downtown Warner today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a day of food and cider sampling, arts and crafts for the kids, horse and carriage rides and of course a chance to meet Santa during the Warner Holiday Shopping Tour. The day will include a holiday gift bazaar, a free viewing of the Festival of Trees, storytelling and more. The Warner Holiday Farmers Market will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Warner Town Hall. See www.kearsargechamber.org for a schedule and parking information.



Sunday, Dec. 11

Give the kids a day of art and music (while you get some shopping done) today from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Nashua Community Music School, 5 Pine St. Ext. 2G in Nashua, 881-7030. For \$30 per child, kids will get to make ornaments at Becks Arts Express (which is near the music school) and then head to the Music School to compose music. The class is open to students with no previous experience. To register, call the Music School. The program will also be held on Monday, Dec. 19, from 9 a.m. to noon.



Sunday, Dec. 11

Rhythm of New Hampshire Show Chorus will provide the entertainment for a wine tasting and “old time radio show,” today at 2 p.m. The afternoon will include an appetizer and wine tasting (with participants including Moonlight Meadery, Zorvino Vineyards and LaBelle Winery) followed by Rhythm of NH’s show featuring a comedy about mobsters, molls and nuns (along with song, of course), according to a press release. Tickets cost \$15 per person. See www.adams.ticketleap.com or www.rnhchorus.org or call 800-696-7351 for tickets.



Wednesday, Dec. 14

Greg and The Morning Buzz (101.1 FM WGIR’s morning show) will rock the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester, 668-5588, www.palacetheatre.org) tonight at 7 p.m. with their Buzz Christmas Ball. The show will feature music (including Charlie Farren, John Butcher, Mike Girard of The Fools, Sal Baglio of The Stompers, Christine Ohlman of The Saturday Night Live Band, Gigi Abraham, Deric Dyer and The Velvet Elves Orchestra), comedy (The Super Secret Project, Bob Marley, Jimmy Dunn, Tony V and Juston McKinney) and more (Gov. John Lynch, Charlie Sherman and Santa) and will benefit New Horizons. Tickets cost \$29 and \$39. Photo: Charlie Farren and John Butcher.

Free: A little Irving Berlin

The Concord Public Library, 45 Green St. in Concord, 225-8670, will screen *White Christmas*, the 1954 movie showcasing the song of the same name and performances by Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye and Rosemary Clooney. The film will be shown on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 6:30 p.m. and lasts about two hours.

Cheap: Hand-crafted beer

Hand-crafted by you at “Happy New Beers 2012” on Friday, Jan. 6, at IncredibREW, 112 DW Highway in Nashua, 891-22477, www.incredibrew.com. Recipes for the night will include Coffee Milk Stout, an English Style Summer Ale, Imperial Black IPA, Belgian Strong Ale and the 10th Anniversary Clone. Get a variety case of beer for \$35 (bottles included). To register, call or e-mail dave@incredibrew.com.

Splurge: A fish feast

The Tuscan Kitchen, 67 Main St. in Salem, 952-4875, www.tuscan-kitchen.com, will hold a Feast of Seven Fishes dinner on Saturday, Dec. 24, from 5 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$50 per person. The menu includes ahi tuna crudo, seafood-filled ravioli, a scallops dish, wood-grilled and stuffed calamari, a seafood soup (featuring monkfish, mussels, clams and a lobster broth), a grilled prawns dish and a roasted red snapper. Call in advance for reservations for parties of seven or more; call on the day for seating for smaller parties.

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Painting water with watercolors

Exhibit at new Sage Gallery captures views of local sites

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

For artist Kathy Tangney both water — oceans, rivers, lakes — and watercolors (the paints) are uncontrollable. She loves the challenge of trying to capture the former with the latter.

Her final products, her works depicting rivers, marshes and the ocean, will be on display through December in an exhibit aptly named “Water,” which will be held at the Sage Gallery...A Fine Art and Metaphysical Meeting Place in Manchester.

“Painting water is, for the moment, what I love doing the most,” Tangney said.

She always goes on site to paint these works. In the collection there are paintings of the marshes in Hampton, the crashing surf in New Castle, and even the water at Livingston Park in Manchester. Tangney said she is not attempting to depict reality but that her work is more impressionistic and often conveys the emotions she feels during the experience.

Then there is also the challenge.

“Water can be a very difficult thing to capture with watercolors,” Tangney said. “Watercolors can be uncontrollable but so can oceans. It is hard to be satisfied with the end product. But when you are, it is an amazing feeling of

accomplishment.”

Tangney said her fellow artists often ask her how she can paint water with watercolors. She said she has learned a few tricks. She tips the canvas upside down and paints from back to front, painting from the back of the wave. Since the crashing part of the wave is often white, which is the color of the canvas and not a color often painted in watercolors, Tangney must get the shape by painting around the non-color. Her explanation sheds some light on the difficulty of her assignment.

In the exhibit she has 11 works on display, although she wasn’t initially sure all of them would fit. She has some very large paintings of Lake Winnepesaukee in particular. One is called “Retreat” and shows a vast expanse of frozen lake with a little house in the distance.

Tangney was asked to exhibit at Sage Gallery by its owner, Janice Donnelly. Tangney said they knew each other through their mutual involvement with the Manchester Artists Association, of which Donnelly is a past president.

For her part, Donnelly said Tangney is very innovative in her work. She noted Tangney isn’t confined to canvas and has paintings on boxes, paper and other media.

“She is exciting,” Donnelly said. “She has taught in public schools and, personally, she has great character.”

There will be an opening reception for the exhibit on Friday, Dec. 9, from 5 to 9 p.m. Tangney will be there and there will also be seasonal singing by Sandra Colwell and a metaphysical reading by Andrea Klim. Tangney said she has never exhibited in a gallery quite like Sage Gallery.

“I’ve never had much to do with the metaphysical side,” Tangney said. “But I am very curious to see what kind of patrons there will be. So far it has been a great experience.”

Tangney said she is happy that there is a new gallery in the area and especially one that has a different take on art and life. She said so far she has heard great things, as people have been curious.

Donnelly said 60 to 100 people attended the first opening event for the gallery, a few months ago. At the second event, after the initial excitement had time to wane, there were still more than 50 people, she said.

“People come to relax, talk and enjoy,” Tangney said.

There are five exhibit rooms in the gallery and there is a feature exhibit, which runs four weeks, a group exhibit that runs six weeks and another group exhibit that runs two months, which means there is something new every two weeks. Donnelly said she now has close to 30 artists.



Work of Kathy Tangney. Courtesy photo.

“Water” by Kathy Tangney

When: through Dec. 31; an opening reception will be held on Friday, Dec. 9, from 5 to 9 p.m.

Where: Sage Gallery ... A Fine Art and Metaphysical Meeting Place, 70 Lowell St., Manchester

More info: Call 626-7243

22 Art

Includes listings for gallery events, ongoing exhibits and classes. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

24 Theater

Includes listings, shows, auditions, workshops and more. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

26 Classical

Includes symphony and orchestral performances. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

ART LISTINGS

Art events

• **DOWNTOWN MANCHESTER HOLIDAY MARKET** will be held Thursdays, Dec. 8, Dec. 15, and Dec. 22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., with extended hours until 8 p.m. on Dec. 15, in the Brady Sullivan Plaza Mall, 1000 Elm St., Manchester. Visit intownmanchester.com or call 645-6285.

• **COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE** will showcase local artists on Fri., Dec. 9, 6-8 p.m. in the St. Joseph Hospital Atrium, 172 Kinsley St., Nashua. Call 889-8299 or visit stjosephhospital.com/art-reach.

• **OPEN STUDIO** will be held on Sat., Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 11, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at 12 Old Bye Road, Raymond. Call 490-9199 or visit haberaartists.com.

• **FOURTH ANNUAL COOKIE COMPETITION & HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE** will be held Sat., Dec. 10 and Sun., Dec. 11, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Brush Gallery & Artists’ Studios, 256 Market St., Lowell, Mass. Visit thebrush.org.

Gallery openings

• **TOGETHER AGAIN** Multi-artist exhibit through Dec. 16 at McGowan Fine Art, 10 Hills Ave., Concord. An artist talk with Clifford Smith will be held on Thurs., Dec. 8, at 5:30 p.m. Call 225-2515 or visit megowanfineart.com.

• **FOCUS TOUR** Music notes and brush strokes will be held on Fri., Dec. 9, at 11:30 a.m. at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Free with museum admission.

Visit currier.org or call 669-6144.

• **NANCY HUBBE** December and January artist at the Seacoast Artist Association gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. There will be an artist reception on Fri., Dec. 9, 5-7 p.m. Call 778-8856 or visit seacoastartist.org.

• **SAM PAOLINI** Work will be on display through March at the Steez Gallery, 85 W Pearl St., Nashua. There will be an opening reception on Fri., Dec. 9, 6-8 p.m. Visit thesteezgallery.com.

• **WATER** Works by Kathy Tangney will be on display through Dec. 31 at Sage Gallery... a Fine Art and Metaphysical Meeting Place, 70 Lowell St., Manchester. There will be a reception on Fri., Dec. 9, 5-9 p.m. Call 626-7243 or visit sagegallery.net.

In the galleries

• **ABOUT FACE:** New Paintings by Kendra O’Donnell will be on display through April 27 at the Robert M. Larsen Gallery at Sulloway & Hollis, 29 School St., Concord. Call 225-2515.

• **ANITA PERRY** work is on display through December at the UNH Graduate School Manchester Campus, 4th floor, 286 Commercial St., Manchester. Call 641-4313 or visit gradschool.unh.edu/manchester.

• **ANNUAL STUDENT EXHIBITION** will be held thru Dec. 14 at The Gallery at New England College on Main Street in Henniker. Gallery hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Friday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 428-2329 or visit nec.edu.

• **ART FROM THE HARBOR GALLERY** will be held through December at the UNH School of Law, Two White St., Concord. Galler hours are weekdays, 8 a.m.-9 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Call 228-1541.

• **ARTFUL GIVING FOR THE HOLIDAY** will be held through Dec. 24 at the Millbrook Gallery & Sculpture Gardens, 236 Hopkinton Road, Concord. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 226-2046 or visit themillbrookgallery.com.

• **BACKSTAGE PASS:** Rock & Roll Photography. Exhibit will be on display through Jan. 15 at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Call 669-6144 or visit currier.org.

• **CHRISTMAS DRAWINGS** by Fr. Iain MacLellan will be on display through Dec. 10 at the Alva de Mars Megan Chapel Art Center at Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and remains open until 7 p.m. on Thursdays. Call 641-7241.

• **CLOSE TO HOME** Multi-artist exhibit through Dec. 31 at East Colony Fine Art, 55 South Commercial St., Manchester. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 621-7400 or visit eastcolony.com.

• **DAVID McPHAIL:** Looking Back... and Beyond will be on display through December at the Children’s Museum of New Hampshire, 6 Washington St., Dover. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. No admission to view gallery only. Call 742-2002 or

visit childrens-museum.org.

• **EARLY WINTER ‘11 EXHIBITION AT 100 MARKET** Multi-artist exhibition will be held through Jan. 13 at The Gallery at 100 Market, 100 Market St., Portsmouth. Call 436-2818.

• **FACES OF NASHUA** Photographic essays will be on display through Dec. 31 at the Nelson Building, 100 Main St., Nashua. E-mail mark@studiomarkemile.com.

• **FOCUS ON NATURE** Work of Elizabeth D’Amico and Jessie Pollock will be on display through Dec. 19 at the Lyceum Gallery at the Derryfield School, 2108 River Road, Manchester. Visit derryfield.org.

• **FRANK M. INGALLS** New permanent photography exhibit at the Florence Speare Museum, 5 Abbott St., Nashua. Call 883-0015.

• **FULL CIRCLE:** Dahlov Ipcar’s Circle Paintings, with a Round of Marguerite and William Zorach and Selected Works from the Boston Sculptors Gallery will be on display through September at the Paul Creative Arts Center at the University of New Hampshire, Durham. Gallery hours are: Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and weekends, 1-5 p.m. Call 862-3712 or visit unh.edu/moa.

• **GAIL SMUDA:** A Retrospective will be held through Dec. 16 at the McNinch Art Gallery, 2500 North River Road, Manchester. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Thursday, 5-8 p.m. Visit snhu.edu/art or call 629-4622.

• **HOLIDAY FINE ART** will be held through Dec. 30 at the NH Art Association, 136 State St., Portsmouth. Visit nhartassociation.org.

In a gallery near you



Paolini in Nashua

Sam Paolini is many things. The Seacoast native is a visual artist, an illustrator and even a baker. His abstract and mixed media works, including his latest series, called “masks,” will be on display through March at the Steez Gallery, 85 W. Pearl St., Nashua. Paolini’s work is often abstract, some would even say nonsensical; however, he always tries to make it affordable and accessible. There will be an opening reception on Friday, Dec. 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. At the opening Chelsea Paolini and DjAngo will perform. Visit thesteezgallery.com or call 718-8394. Work of Sam Paolini. Courtesy photo.

ciation, 136 State St., Portsmouth. Visit nhartassociation.org.

• **ICONS OF HISTORY:** Objects that Define New Hampshire. Objects will be on display through Dec. 31 at the New Hampshire Historical Society’s museum, 6 Eagle Square, Concord. Visit nhhistory.org or call 228-6688.

• **ILLUSTRATOR EXHIBIT** Work by several children’s book illustrators is on display at the Brush Gallery and Artists Studio, 256 Market St., Lowell, Mass. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Visit thebrush.org or call 978-459-7819.

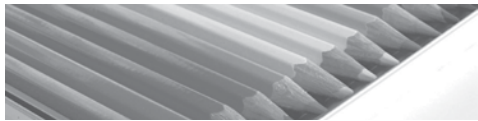
• **KIMBERLY PECK** work will be on display through Jan. 31 at the New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St., Rte. 101A, Milford. Gallery open daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 673-8499 or

visit nhantiquecoop.com.

• **MONIQUE SAKELLARIOS** Work will be on display through Dec. 30 at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Call 589-4610.

• **NATIVITIY SCENES** will be on display through Dec. 31 at the America’s Credit Union Museum, 420 Notre Dame Ave., Manchester. Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. and on Sat., Dec. 31, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and Sundays, Dec. 11, and Dec. 18, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Call 629-1553.

• **NEIL WETHERBEE** Photographs will be on display through early January at the Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St., Amherst. Hours are Monday-



LOCAL COLOR

• **Arts advocates meet:** The New Hampshire Citizens for the Arts held their third annual Arts Summit at the end of November and identified two major pieces of legislation that could be filed early next year that once again threaten the arts community, according to Marilyn Hoffman, past president of the NH Citizens for the Arts. One bill, which was previously proposed by Rep. Steve Vaillancourt (R-Manchester) would look to split up the Department of Cultural Resources and eliminate the State Council on the Arts. Last year this bill failed and Hoffman believed they had strong support against it again, especially since the Council on the Arts is already so small. Another potential threat was a possible bill that looks to eliminate the Percent for Art Program, which has been around since 1979 and authorizes half of one percent of the capital budget for new buildings or major renovations to be set aside for art works. While those in attendance, of which there were more than 50, worried about the future, they also enjoyed an address from the keynote speaker, Jonathan Katz, executive director of the National Assembly of State Agencies. In his speech, according to Hoffman,

Katz told everyone to think about the public benefit of the arts to everyone, not just those who participate. Katz said that even people with private trash pickup care that their neighbor's trash gets picked up because it affects everyone; he told those in attendance to think of the arts in these terms. Hoffman also advised people to check back in with the NH Citizens for the Arts website, nhcfa.org, because there will be updates posted about when public hearings on those bills will be held. Hoffman said it is important to have as much public support as possible.

• **Focus on music:** The next Focus Tour at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester, will look at the relationship between art and music. The tour, which will be led by docents Diane Curran and Marilyn Davison, will focus on the exhibit "Backstage Pass: Rock & Roll Photography" but will also look at the museum's permanent collection, which dates back through the centuries. The tour will be held on Friday, Dec. 9, at 11:30 a.m. It is free with museum admission. Call 669-6144 or visit currier.org. —Adam Coughlin

Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Visit amherst.lib.nh.us or call 673-2288.

• **NEW WORKS** by Fine Arts Faculty will be on display through Dec. 16 in the Marian Graves Mugar Art Gallery at Colby-Sawyer College, 541 Main St., New London. The event is free and open to the public. Call 526-3647 or visit colby-sawyer.edu/arts/index.html/.

• **OPEN STUDIO NIGHTS** third Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. at Verdigris Artisans, 88 N. Main St., Suite 205, Concord, verdigrisartisans.com.

• **PASTELS** by Nashua artist Pauline Dailey will be on display in the Image Gallery at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, free and open to the public. Call 589-4610.

• **PRECIOUS** Multi-artist holiday exhibit through Jan. 15 at Soo Rye Art Gallery, 11 Sagamore Road, Rye. Call 319-1578 or visit soorye.com.

• **SETTING THE STANDARD:** Work of Jurors. Exhibit will be on display through Dec. 14 at the League of NH Craftsmen Craft Center, 49 South Main St., Concord. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 224-3375 or visit nhcrafts.org.

• **SILENT AUCTION** held every third Thursday of the month through December, 6-9 p.m. at 100 Main St., Nashua. Call 930-0623.

• **SMALL WORKS** will be on display through Dec. 31 at Lucy's Art Emporium, 303 Central Ave., Dover. Visit lucysartemporium.com.

• **SMALL WORKS, GREAT GIFTS** Holiday theme show on display through Dec. 24 at the Seacoast Artist Association gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 778-8856 or visit seacoastartist.org.

• **TRANSFORMATION** Photographic work of David MacEachran and Alicia Bergeron on display at Silver Light Gallery, 28 Main St., Suite 2, Goffstown. Visit silverhillsstudio.com or call 497-4674.

• **TWO NEW EXHIBITS** Felice Beato: Photographer in Nineteenth-Century Japan and John Wiseman: Postmodern Constructs, Japanese-

In a gallery near you



Ornaments make trip to D.C.

Seventh- and eighth-grade students from Andover Elementary/Middle School joined with local artist Kristine Lane to create official ornaments that were featured at the National Christmas Tree Lighting event, which was held last week in Washington, D.C. Students used colored tissue paper to create ornaments with images of covered bridges, winter activities and the Old Man of the Mountain. One of the ornaments will hang on the White House Visitor Center Christmas tree, where each state is represented. It was Franklin Pierce, America's 14th president and the only one who was native to New Hampshire, who first hung a tree in the White House. Visit nh.gov/nhculture. The students of Andover Elementary/Middle School. Courtesy photo.

Style will be on display through Dec. 12 at the Museum of Art at UNH-Durham. Call 862-3712 or visit unh.edu/moa.

• **VISIONS AND REFLECTIONS: DIVERSE JOURNEYS** Multi-artist exhibit will be on display through Dec. 24 at the Mill Brook Gallery & Sculpture Garden, 236 Hopkinton Road, Concord. Call 226-2046 or visit themillbrookgallery.com.

• **WESTERN NH ARTISTS** The work of Alicia Drakiotis and Sienna Merrifield Giffin will be on display through Dec. 30 at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forest, 54 Portsmouth St., Concord. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 224-9945.

Classes/workshops/demonstrations

• **OPEN HOUSE WORKSHOP** will be held on Sat., Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the New Hampshire Institute of Art in the French Building Rotunda, 148 Concord St., Manchester. Costs \$20. Call 836-2515.

THEATER LISTINGS

• **The Acting Loft**

670 North Commercial Street, Manchester in the Jefferson Mill Building.666-5999, actingloft.org

• **Actorsingers** 219 Lake St., Nashua, 889-9691, actorsingers.org

• **Adams Memorial**

Opera House 29 W. Broadway, Derry, 437-0505, derryarts.org

• **Amato Family Center for the Performing Arts at Souhegan Valley Boys & Girls Club** 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford, 672-1002 ext. 2, svbgc.com

• **Andy's Summer Playhouse** Wilton, 654-2613, andysummerplayhouse.org

• **Anselmian Abbey Players** Dana Center, 641-7700

• **Bedford Off Broadway** Meetinghouse Rd, Bedford, 557-1805, bedfordoffbroadway.com

• **Bedford Town Hall** 70 Bedford Center Rd., Bedford

• **Bedford Youth Performing Company** 155 Route 101, Bedford, www.bypc.org, 472-3894.

• **Belle Voci** bellevoci.org, 848-7986

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Laura Levine (United States, born 1958). James Brown, NYC, 1984, gelatin silver print, 16" x 20". Private collection. © Laura Levine. All rights reserved.

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Curtain Calls

• **Calling all directors:** Actors' Circle Theatre, which was founded in 1988, puts on plays and musicals in the various venues around Peterborough. They are perhaps best known for the Shakespeare in the Park series, which, for the past five years, has offered free performances of the Bard's best works in Depot Square Park. They are now requesting one-page director proposals through Dec. 30. In the proposal you should write what play you'd like to direct, your costume and set ideas, production ideas, how it will benefit the community and how many community members, for cast and crew, will be needed, why the play/musical will be good for the Actors' Circle Theatre to be involved in and any additional information you would like to include. Send proposals to actorscircle@gmail.com.

• **Ancient Egypt gets a makeover:** The story of Marc Antony (not J.Lo's ex-husband) and Cleopatra is one of the greatest love stories ever known. But it has been revamped and updated by the drama department at Windham High School in their new show, *Antony and Cleopatra*. Gone is the background of William Shakespeare's

ancient Egypt. It has been replaced with 1960s America. Hippies replace Egyptians. U.S. Army soldiers fill in for Romans. But while the actors have changed, the story's eternal message of damned love remains the same, which was the point of the reinvention all along: to show that the conflicts Shakespeare wrote of centuries ago still occur today. There will be a cast of 29 actors taking on the epic performance, as well as an eight-person technical crew. Shows will be performed on Friday, Dec. 9, and Saturday, Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 11, at 1:30 p.m. at the Windham High School Theater, 64 London Bridge Road, Windham. Tickets, which are available at the door, cost \$10 (\$5 for students and seniors). Visit windhamsd.org/whs.

• **12 angry middle schoolers:** The Merrimack Middle School drama club will perform *Twelve Angry Men* on Thursday, Dec. 8, and Friday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. at the Little Theatre at Merrimack High School, 38 McElwain St., Merrimack. The show, which recently underwent a Broadway revival, is about the 12 men serving on the jury of a murder trial. Eleven think the criminal is guilty. Unfortunately, all 12 need to agree. The drama was written by Reginald Rose in 1954, adapted for stage by Sherman L. Sergel and was made popular in the 1957 movie starring Henry Fonda. Tickets cost \$7. Visit merrimack.k12.nh.us.
—Adam Coughlin

- **Capitol Center for the Arts**
44 Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
- **Concord Chorale**
224-0770, concordchorale.org
- **Concord City Auditorium**
2 Prince St., Concord, 228-2793, www.theaudi.org
- **Concord Community Players**
224-4905, communityplayersofconcord.org
- **The Dana Center**
100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu
- **The Hampstead Theatre**
1355 Suncook Valley Hwy., Ctr. Barnstead, 1-800-619-5302, www.hampsteadstage.org
- **The Majestic Theatre**
281 Cartier St., Manchester, 669-7469, majestictheatre.net
- **Manchester Community Music School**
2291 Elm St., 644-4548, mcmusicschool.org
- **Manchester Community Theatre and Second Stage**
Professional Co.
698 Beech St., Manchester, 627-8787
- **Milford Area Players**
673-2258, milfordareaplayers.org
- **Muchachos Drum & Bugle Corps**
PO Box 5197, Manchester, 674-7650, www.muchachos.org
- **Music and Drama Company (MADCo.)**
Londonderry, madco.org
- **My Act**
myact.org, 429-3950
- **Nashua Theatre Guild**
PO Box 137, Nashua, 03061, 320-2530, nashuatheatreguild.org
- **New Thalian Players**
newthalianplayers.org, 666-6466
- **Nashua Community College Performing Arts Club (PAC)**
505 Amherst St., Nashua,

On stage



Wait no more

Ghostlight Theater Co. of New England will perform Samuel Beckett's absurdist creation, *Waiting for Godot*, on Friday, Dec. 9, at 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec.

10, at 2 and 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 11, at 2 p.m. at The Acting Loft, 670 N. Commercial St., Manchester. In the play, two old men, who call themselves Didi and Gogo, wait for someone named Godot to come and save them from their awful lives, according to production notes. As they wait, they tell stories, share wisdom and occasionally try to hang themselves. Their musings are interrupted by the arrival of Pozzo and Lucky. But will they answer any of their questions? The show is directed by Ozan Haksever, who considers the play perhaps the most realistic ever written. Tickets cost \$15 (\$12 for seniors/students/military). Visit www.gltne.org. Jim Burkholder and Peter Josephson. Joe Pelonzi photo.

- 428-3544
- **The Palace Theatre**
80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org
- **Peacock Players**
14 Court St., Nashua, 886-7000, peacockplayers.org
- **Pittsfield Players**
6 Depot St., Pittsfield, 435-8852, pittsfieldplayers.com
- **Profile Chorus**
profilechorus.org
- **School of Theater Arts at The Amato Center for Performing Arts**
56 Mont Vernon St., Milford, 672-1002 ext. 20
- **Seacoast Repertory Theatre**
125 Bow St., Portsmouth, 433-4472
- **SNHU Drama Club**
2500 North River Rd., Hooksett
- **Stagecoach Productions**
7 Bayberry Way, Mont Vernon, 672-9664 stagecoachproductions.org
- **Stage One Productions**
Dinner Theatre at the

- Chateau Restaurant**
201 Hanover St., Manchester
669-5511, stageoneprod.com
- **THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS SHOW (ABRIDGED)** will be performed through Dec. 18 at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 132 Warren St., Lowell, Mass. Performances are at 2, 4, 7, 7:30 and 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$42, \$48 and \$54. Visit merrimackrep.org or call 978-654-4MRT.
- **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** will be performed through Dec. 24 at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth. Show times are 2, 7:30 and 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$24-\$35. Visit seacoastrep.org or call 433-4472.
- **CHRISTMAS MUSICALS OF LOVE** *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and *The Gift of the Magi* will be performed through Dec. 11 at the Leddy Center, 38c Ladd's Lane, Epping. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays and Wed., Dec. 7, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$16 and \$18. Visit leddycenter.org or call 679-2781.

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CLASSICAL

Singing, IRL

Suncook chorale brings neighbors together

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

At the concerts of the Suncook Valley Chorale, audience and singers alike connect in a way they cannot on the Internet. And that is how choral director Scott Lounsbury likes it.

Lounsbury has been leading the chorale for a decade and, when asked what his future plans for the group were, he said he hopes to continue showing the joy and glory of group art, which he said is losing fashion.

"Things are moving toward the individual," Lounsbury said. "Even at a bar, people sing karaoke. They don't have everyone in the bar singing together."

Lounsbury said this trend is a result of modern technology, which professes that it connects us to the world but in fact is separating us as individuals. He said group art is essential to our culture and at Suncook Valley Chorale concerts people can see what their neighbors do for fun, which connects them in a different way.

Lounsbury was bitten by the music bug early and has been in and led choruses since he was studying music education at the University of New Hampshire. During the day he is a chorus and music teacher at Belmont Middle and High Schools. But back in 2001 he was looking for a community chorus to direct. As it happened, the Suncook Valley Chorale, which began in Pittsfield in 1982 and has since moved its home to Concord, was looking for a director.

"It was one of those timing things that worked out," Lounsbury said.

One of the reasons he got involved was that he loves working with adults. He said besides the fact that their world experience is closer to his own, adults have a drive to get it right because they only have a few hours each week to rehearse (the Suncook Valley Chorale practices Mondays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.).

"They [the chorus members] are doing it for the sheer love," Lounsbury said. "For some reason the word 'amateur' is almost derogatory. But look at the root of the word 'amat,' Latin for 'love.'"

Lounsbury said this love shines through during performances. He said of course there are panic moments during a concert but the audience can tell this and when the chorus gets through them, the audience gets through them as well. It creates a participatory feel.

When he arrived there were 50-some members. At its peak, membership rose to the mid-70s, and now there are about 63 members, who come from all over, including Massachusetts, Warner and Barnstead. The chorale prides



Suncook Valley Chorale. Courtesy photo.

itself on being a non-audition chorale. Members' ages range from very young to very old. Lounsbury said this multi-generational appeal helps add to the depth of the songs. Lounsbury said that the chorus was once singing *Chattanooga Choo Choo*, which has the line 'Pardon me, boy.' He said he didn't know that term had racial undertones. It took someone from an older generation to discuss it.

"It really helped us understand the meaning behind the song," Lounsbury said.

With every choir, and perhaps every organization, there are those who are deeply involved and really champion its message (SVC's motto is Sing for Joy!). Lounsbury said he has never seen a larger core of active members in Suncook Valley Choir.

The chorale sings two concerts each year: one in January and one in May. Lounsbury likes this schedule because there are so many performances in December that there isn't much competition in January. They also perform two shows, each lasting about an hour and a half, which is close to 20 songs, so that the chorale can master that full program. Because they practice so much, Lounsbury tries to find pieces that challenge and entertain the choral members. At the same time, Lounsbury said the chorale is very good at letting his excitement infect them. The January concert, which will be held Jan. 21 and Jan. 22 in Concord, is based on the theme of well-known choral masterpieces.

"It is a great feeling when you see audiences re-connecting with old songs they knew before," Lounsbury said. "They get a grin on their face and you can see them being carried away to a different place."

"And when it's a piece they've never heard before and it touches them, they get a crinkle in their eyes and it is like smelling a fragrance they've never smelt before."

Visit svcnh.org.

• **12 ANGRY MEN** will be performed on Thurs., Dec. 8, and Fri., Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. at Merrimack High School, 36 McElwain St., Merrimack. Tickets cost \$7. Visit merrimack.k12.nh.us.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** will be performed on Thurs., Dec. 8, at 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. at the Dana Center, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester. Tickets cost \$32.50 (\$28.50 for faculty, staff, alum and senior citizens; \$15.50 for students; \$6 for Saint Anselm College students). Call 641-7700 or visit anselm.edu/dana.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** will be performed on Fridays, Dec. 9, Dec.

16, and Dec. 23, at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays, Dec. 10, and Dec. 17, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. and Sundays, Dec. 11 and Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$15-\$45. Call 668-5588 or visit palacetheatre.org.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Pontine Theatre will perform Dec. 9-Dec. 11 at Pontine's West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 4 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$24. Visit pontine.org or call 436-6660.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** will be performed Dec. 9 through Dec. 23

at The Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth. Shows are Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays, at 3 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. There are also 7 p.m. shows on Tues., Dec. 20, Wed., Dec. 21, Thurs., Dec. 22, and Fri., Dec. 23. Visit playersing.org or call 436-8123.

• **ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA** will be performed on Fri., Dec. 9, and Sat., Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 11, at 1:30 p.m. at Windham High School, 64 London Bridge Road, Windham. Tickets cost \$10 (\$5 for students and seniors). Visit windhamsd.org/whs.

• **PLAID TIDINGS** The Forever

Plaid Christmas Show will be held Fri., Dec. 9, and Sat., Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 11, at 2 p.m. at the Majestic Theatre, 281 Cartier St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$12, \$15, and \$18. Visit majestictheatre.net or call 669-7469.

• **THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER** will be performed on Fri., Dec. 9, and Sat., Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 10, and Sun., Dec. 11, at 2 p.m. at the Amato Center for the Performing Arts, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford. Tickets cost \$12 for adults and \$8 for students/seniors. Visit svbge.org or call 672-1002.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** NH School of Ballet will perform on Fri., Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Tickets cost \$15. Call 668-5330 or e-mail beau4@comcast.net.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** will be performed on Fri., Dec. 9, and Sat., Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 10, at 2 p.m. and a special abridged school performance on Fri., Dec. 9, at 10 a.m. at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. Tickets cost \$20 and \$24. Call 335-1992 or visit rochesteroperahouse.com.

• **THE NUTCRACKER:** Act II will be performed on Fri., Dec. 9, and Sat., Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's School, 325 Pleasant St., Concord. Call Jana at 229-4740.

• **WAITING FOR GODOT** will be performed on Fri., Dec. 9, at 8 p.m., Sat., Dec. 10, at 2 and 8 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 11, at 2 p.m. at The Acting Loft, 670 N. Commercial St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$15 (\$12 for seniors/students/military). Visit gltne.org.

• **A DICKENS' CHRISTMAS** will be performed on Sat., Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. The show is free and open to the public. Call 781-5695 or visit justlovetosing.com.

• **FAUST** The Met: Live in HD will be shown on Sat., Dec. 10, at 1 p.m. at the Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough. Tickets cost \$25 (\$20 for students). Call 924-7585 or visit peterboroughplayers.org.

• **MADLINE'S CHRISTMAS** will be performed Dec. 10 through Dec. 18 at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth. Shows are Saturdays and Sundays, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Tickets cost \$10. Call 433-4472 or visit seacoastrep.org.

• **A DICKENS' OF A CHRISTMAS** will be performed Tues., Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. at the Old Salt Restaurant, 490 Lafayette Road, Hampton. Tickets, which include dinner, cost \$39.99. Call 926-0330.

• **SALONIKA** Live reading will be held on Wed., Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m. at The Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth. The event is free and open to the public. Visit playersring.org or call 436-8123.

• **THE BUZZ CHRISTMAS BALL** will be held on Wed., Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$30-\$40. Visit palacetheatre.org or call 668-5588.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** will be performed on Thurs., Dec. 15, Fri., Dec. 16, and Sat., Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 17, and Sun., Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. Tickets cost \$16. There will also be performances on Wed., Dec. 21, Thurs., Dec. 22, and Fri., Dec. 23, at 10 a.m. Tickets cost \$6. Call 335-1992 or visit rochesteroperahouse.com.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** will be performed on Thurs., Dec. 15, at 7 p.m., Fri., Dec. 16, at 7 p.m., Sat., Dec. 17, at 2 and 7 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Nashua Court Street

On stage



Concord Chorale gets in the spirit

The Concord Chorale, accompanied by a chamber orchestra, will perform a winter concert on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. at Saint John the Evangelist Church, 72 South Main St., Concord. The show is titled "Exultavit" and will feature the works of Felix Mendelssohn, Morten Lauridsen & Tomas Luis de Victoria and Gwyneth Walker. Three carols by John Rutter will feature the Concord Chorale Youth Choir. Tickets cost \$20 (\$15 for seniors and students). Call 746-4624 or visit www.concordchorale.org. Concord Chorale at the 2010 Governor's Tea. Courtesy photo.

Theater, 14 Court St., Nashua. Tickets cost from \$12 to \$17. Visit peacock-players.org or call 886-7000.

• **A GAY COUNTRY CHRISTMAS** Performance by Rene Pfister will be on Fri., Dec. 16, and Sat., Dec. 17, at 8 p.m. at Whistler House, 243 Worthen St., Lowell, Mass. Tickets cost \$25. Call 978-452-7641 or visit whistlerhouse.org.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** Northern Ballet Theatre Dance Center will perform on Sat., Dec. 17, and Sun., Dec. 18, at the Keefe Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua. All performances are at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$18-\$25. Call 889-8408 or visit nbtcd.com.

• **TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS** featuring performances by Eastern Ballet Institute and Concord Community Music School on Sat., Dec. 17, at 1 and 4 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord. Tickets cost \$16.50 (\$12.50 for seniors and students). Visit ccanh.com or call 225-1111.

• **TWELVE DAYS 'TIL CHRISTMAS** will be performed on Sat., Dec. 17, at 2 and 7 p.m. at the Amato Center for the Performing Arts, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford. Tickets cost \$10 (\$6 for kids under 12). Visit lifelinedrama.com.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** Turning Pointe Center of Dance will perform on Sun., Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Tickets cost \$15. Call 485-8740 or e-mail tpcd@comcast.net.

Auditions/open calls

• **THE BECKONING** Auditions will be held on Thurs., Dec. 8, 7-9 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 10, 2-4 p.m. at the Garrison Players, 650 Portland Road, Rollinsford. Call 750-4278 or visit garrisonplayers.org.

• **THE BIRDS AND EURYDICE** Auditions for the two productions will be held Sun., Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. and Mon., Dec. 19, at 7 p.m. at the Stockbridge Theatre, 44 N. Main St., Derry. Visit tkapow.com.

Classical Listings

• **NEW ENGLAND SWING** will be performed on Fri., Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. at White Birch, 222 Central St., Hudson. Tickets cost \$20 in advance (\$25 at the door). Call 595-9156.

• **A CHRISTMAS TAPESTRY** will be held on Sat., Dec. 10, 7-9 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 11, 3-5 p.m. at Saint Joseph Cathedral, 145 Lowell St., Manchester. Visit mcsnh.org.

• **ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOLK CONCERT** will be held on Sat., Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the Concord Community Music School, 23 Wall St., Concord. Tickets cost \$12 (\$10 for students and seniors). Call 228-

1196 or visit ccmusicschool.org.

• **EXULTAVIT** Concord Chorale will perform on Sat., Dec. 10, at 8 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. at the St. John the Evangelist Church, 72 South Main St., Concord. Call 746-4624 or visit concordchorale.org.

• **HOLIDAY CONCERT** will be held on Sat., Dec. 10, at 2 p.m. in the Parker Gallery of Whister House, 243 Worthen St., Lowell, Mass. Tickets cost \$12 (\$10 for children). Visit lowellphilharmonic.org.

• **HOLIDAY CONCERT** will be held on Sat., Dec. 10, at 3 p.m. at Merrimack High School, 38 McElwain St., Merrimack. Tickets cost \$7 (\$5 for children 12 and under). Call Laurie at 424-0558 or e-mail info@merrimackconcert.org.

• **MUSIC FROM THE CATHEDRAL** Concerts will be held on Sun., Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Church, 43 Pine St., Exeter; Sun., Dec. 11, at 2:30 p.m. at St. George's Episcopal Church, 1 Park Court Durham; Wed., Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 98 Summer St., Portsmouth. Call 997-9575.

• **41st ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS** will be held on Sun., Dec. 11, at 5 p.m. at St. Paul's School, 325 Pleasant St., Concord. Call Jana at 229-4740.

• **HOLIDAY CONCERT** Amherst Town Band will perform on Sun., Dec. 11, at 1 p.m. at the Congregational Church, 11 Church St., Amherst. Visit amhersttownband.org.

• **HOLIDAY POPS** Concert will be performed on Sun., Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Tickets cost \$10 to \$35. Call 226-4776 or visit gssso.org.

• **MUSIC AND DANCE** The Nashua Flute Choir will perform on Sun., Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. at the Pilgrim Congregational Church, 4 Watson St., Nashua. Tickets cost \$15 (\$10 for seniors and students. \$5 for children). Visit nashuaflutechoir.com or call 888-1741.

• **A WINTER WELCOME** Harpist Jane Wilcox Hively will perform on Mon., Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. at the Laconia Public Library, 695 North Main St., Laconia. The concert is free and open to the public. Call 527-1278 or e-mail lhmslpl@metrocast.net.

• **HOLIDAY POPS** Concert will be performed on Mon., Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral, 145 Lowell St., Manchester. The concert is free and open to the public. Visit snhu.edu/music.

• **CELTIC CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA** will be performed on Thurs., Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 4 Watson St., Nashua. Call 617-875-7851 or visit bostonstringquartet.com.

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The two-week beak seek

Christmas Bird Counters eye eagles and more in NH

Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

New Hampshire birdwatchers will join folks all over, from the East Coast to the West Coast, from Canada to Central and South America, in a 112-year tradition, braving snow, wind and rain to make a contribution to conservation and to experience the beauty of nature in the 112th Annual Christmas Bird Count. This two-week event will begin on Wednesday, Dec. 14, and last until Thursday, Jan. 8.

“The Christmas spirit count can give us information on long-term trends of bird populations,” said Becky Suomala of the New Hampshire Audubon Society. “The National Audubon uses this to take a look and see what’s happening to various bird populations during the winter time,” Suomala said.

Volunteers in 21 areas will collect data that will be used in the longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations and guide conservation action.

It’s also a fun event for birdwatchers.

“I like doing it — I like participating in the science of it, the history of it. It’s a good excuse to get outside, and the Christmas count provides the chance to get together with other birders in the winter time,” said David Howe, a Christmas Bird Count volunteer in the Concord/Laconia area.

And the Christmas Bird Count has a peculiar history, considering its nature. The tradition began as a shooting competition. People who took part in the Christmas “Side Hunt” chose sides and started shooting. Whoever brought the largest pile of feathered quarry won.

But near the turn of the 20th century, observers and scientists became concerned about the declining bird population. On Christmas Day 1900, Audubon Society officers proposed a new “Christmas Bird Census” tradition. Twenty-five Christmas bird counts were held in varying locations across the country. The tradition has continued to this day.

The data that volunteers collect allow research-

ers, biologists and other individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America, and to see how populations have changed over time and space.

Overall, there has been an increase in the number of species spotted during the Christmas bird count, Suomala said.

“There have been more southern bids spotted. For instance, the Northern Cardinal is a favorite; however, it never used to be seen in the state. Now, it’s seen in nearly all Christmas bird counts,” Suomala said. Last year there were 1,125 Northern Cardinals spotted by birdwatchers during the event. This is an enormous increase, for in 1995 the count was just 444.

Richard Bielawski, who has been leading the Hollis area’s bird count for six years now, noticed a decrease in the seagull number. He attributes this change to the established landfill caps a few years ago — now the seagulls have no trash to eat.

Bielawski’s count circle will be conducting their birdwatching venture on Saturday, Dec. 17. Each volunteer is designated a particular portion of the 15-mile-diameter count circle during a 24-hour period, from sunrise to sunset. Most of the volunteers are seasoned bird-watchers, and so they enjoy taking part in the event. The volunteers calculate the total number of birds as well as the number of species found. Last year, Bielawski counted a whopping 30 different species throughout the 24-hour period, with a grand total of 573 different birds.

And with bird-watching enthusiasts, there’s bound to be a bit of friendly competition.

“Most of the volunteers actually are birdwatchers — finding rarities or species typically not in the area gives you bragging rights,” Bielawski said.

Bielawski said that it’s not at typical to see a peregrine falcon in downtown Nashua. But there is a good chance there will be a large number of turkeys at the Merrimack waste water treatment plant, and along the Merrimack River, it’s likely that volunteers will be able to spot a soaring bald eagle.



A close view of a male Northern Cardinal in the Elizabeth A. Morton National Wildlife Refuge located in New York. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Digital Library

The Concord and Laconia regions see a number of different bird species. Howe noted that he and his fellow birdwatchers will typically see chickadees, cardinals, blue jays, white-breasted nuthatches, American goldfinches and house finches, many of which can be spotted in mixed flocks during the winter time. There will also be “eruptions of northern species” during this time of the year, Howe noted, because many birds will be migrating south to warmer weather. Last year, Howe said, the Concord/Laconia count circle spotted approximately 56 different bird species within their designated area.

Howe said the numbers and types of birds spotted can depend on the timing of the count. If the water isn’t completely frozen, Howe expects to see more ducks and gulls migrating south during the count.

For more information or to be assigned to a count area, contact Richard Bielawski at 429-2537 or rbielawski@mac.com. Visit <http://birds.audubon.org/chrimstas-bird.count> to learn more about the tradition. Or call the New Hampshire Audubon at 668-2045 or visit www.nhaudubon.org.

For bird-watchers who miss this event and would like to take part in another, check out the Greater Backyard Bird Count put on the National Audubon Society, an event that “anybody can be involved in,” said Bielowski. “All you have to do is count the birds from your own back yard!” This four-day event will take place Feb 17-20. Visit <http://birds.audubon.org/great-backyard-bird-count>.

CHILDREN & TEENS

Events

• **TEEN NIGHT: QUEST FOR THE FIRST HABITABLE EXOWORLD** discussion on the new discoveries of NASA’s Kepler mission, led by Dartmouth College astronomy graduate students, on Fri., Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. at the McAuliffe Shepard Discovery Center, 2 Institute Drive, Concord, www.starhop.com. Pizza and soda provided. For ages 13-19 only. \$8 admission.
• **19th CENTURY MAGICIAN** “Richard Potter” will be recreated by present-day magician Robert Olson at the Canturbury Shaker Village, 288 Shaker Rd., Canterbury, Sat., Dec. 3 and Dec. 10. Shows to take place in historic Meeting House, 3:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

• **KELLEY LIBRARY CONCERT AND TEA** will take place at the library, 234 Main St., and will feature Windham Flute Ensemble and local guest performers on Sat., Dec. 10 at 1 p.m.

• **CHILDREN’S BOOK SIGNING** by local author Kathy Brodsky, who will be reading and signing, *A Horse Named Special*, Thus., Dec. 10, at 10 a.m. At Barnes and

Noble, 1741 So. Willow St., Manchester. Call Barnes and Noble, 668-5557.

• **BRITIONARY “LEGO** charades” will take place Mon., Dec. 12, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. or 3:45-5:45 p.m. at the SEE Science Center (200 Bedford St., Manchester). Encourages students to work together to creatively find solutions to challenges. Admission is \$28 per child. SEE member discount prices are \$25 per workshop. Register at see-sciencecenter.org or call 669-0400.

• **POLAR EXPRESS PARTY** for preschoolers at the Manchester City Library (405 Pine St., Manchester) on Mon., Dec. 12, at 10 a.m. in the Winchell Room. Celebrate the holiday season with the story, games and activities featuring the popular children’s book. Hot chocolate, crafts, and Christmas carols. Ages 2-5. Registration required; call 624-6550, ext. 328.

• **POLAR EXPRESS PARTY** for school-aged children on Tues., Dec. 13, at 4 p.m. at the Manchester City Library (405 Pine St.) in the Winchell Room. Story, crafts and snacks. Registration is required; call 624-6550, ext. 328. Grades K-5.

• **RECYCLED CARD ORNAMENT WORKSHOP** will be held at Nashua Pub-

lic Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, on Tues., Dec. 13 at 4 p.m. For ages 11 to 17. Register at tinyurl.com/nplteen. Call 589-4610.

• **DECORATE HOLIDAY COOKIES** at the Kelley Library, 234 Main St., Salem, on Wed., Dec. 14. Kids ages 6 and older will decorate holiday cookies using artistic talents. Call 898-7064 to register.

• **HOLLY JOLLY TODLER AND PRESCHOOL PARTY** at the Wadleigh Memorial Library (49 Nashua St., Milford) on Wed., Dec. 14, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Children’s Room. Enjoy music, movement, crafts and refreshments. Registration not required. Call 673-2408.

CRAFTS

Fairs/Exhibits

• **FESTIVE HOLIDAY SHOPPING EVENT** on Sat., Dec. 10. Downtown Warner will host Santa , horse and carriage rides, a presentation of “The Gingerbread Man” and more at this year’s shopping event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shopping day will also feature gift bazaar, food samplings, free hot cider, arts and craft activities, and more. Visit www.kearsagechamber.org/Holiday2011.

• **“SETTING THE STANDARD: WORK OF THE JURORS”** exhibit at League of NH Craftsmen, 49 South Main St., Suite 100, Concord, features the work of master craftsmen in a variety of media, Sept. 9-Dec. 14. Call 224-3375 or go to www.nhcrafts.org.

Other

• **RECYCLED CARD ORNAMENT WORKSHOP** will be held at Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, on Tues., Dec. 13 at 4 p.m. For ages 11 to 17. Register at tinyurl.com/nplteen. Call 589-4610.

• **ORNAMENT PAINTING** for children 7 and older will take place at the Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis, on Tues., Dec. 20, at 4 p.m. Learn how to paint glass ornaments for your tree from artist Kristine Brock, and make beautiful bulbs with ceramic paint. Sign up at <http://hollislibrary.org> or contact Miss Amanda at 465-7721.

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Light up your life

• Amherst will host a **Tree Lighting Festival** on Friday, Dec. 9, at the WWI Common, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The festivities, which include live music, breakfasts, hay rides and visits with Santa, will last until Sunday, Dec. 11.

• **Lights on the Hill** takes place Saturday, Dec. 10, and Sunday, Dec. 11, from 4 to 8 p.m., in Candia. Activities will be hosted in historic 19th-century buildings. The event, which includes a live nativity scene, begins at the corner of Route 27 and South Road. Walk through the village lined with luminaries or take a shuttle bus to sites. The event includes live music, shopping, craft-making, balloon sculptures, and gift-wrapping help from elves. Donate hats, gloves or socks. Visit www.candia-congregational.org.

• A **Festival of Lights** will take place at the Mariposa Museum (26 Main St., Peterborough) on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 2 p.m., with stories, crafts, and treats that follow the traditions of Las Posadas, Diwali, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, St. Lucia's Day and Christmas. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for

children. Visit www.mariposamuseum.org.

meet the animals

• Take a trip to Milton and celebrate **Christmas on the Farm** at the New Hampshire Farm Museum, 1305 White Mountain Highway, Milton, on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Take a tour of the decorated historic Jones Farmhouse with costumed role-players, enjoy a horse-drawn sleigh ride, make a Christmas candle to take home, roast chestnuts, and meet the farm animals. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. Call 652-7840 or visit www.farmmuseum.org.

• Feed the birds at the **Backyard Winter Birds and Bird Feeding** event at Squam Lake Natural Science Center, 23 Science Center Road, Holderness, on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Learn about birds that winter in New Hampshire. Event admission is \$8. Visit www.nhnature.org or call 968-7194.

Eat, listen, shop

• The Kelley Library, 234 Main St., Salem, will host a **Holiday Concert and Tea**

featuring the Windham Flute Ensemble and local guest performers on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 1 p.m.

• The **Festive Holiday Shopping Event** on Saturday, Dec. 10, in downtown Warner will host Santa, horse and carriage rides, a presentation of "The Gingerbread Man" and more from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be a gift bazaar, food samplings, free hot cider, and arts and craft activities. Visit www.kearsagechamber.org/Holiday2011.

Read

• On Saturday, Dec. 10, at 10 a.m. author Kathy Brodsky and illustrator Cameron Bennett will visit Barnes & Noble in Manchester (1741 S. Willow St., 668-5557) to sign copies of their latest collaboration, the picture book **A Horse Named Special**.

• On Sunday, Dec. 11, at noon children's book illustrator Jill Weber will be at the Toadstool Bookshop in Milford (Lorden Plaza, 673-1734, www.toadbooks.com) to talk about and sign copies of **The Story of Hanukkah**, written by David A. Adler, which she illustrated.

In the spotlight



Volunteer wrappers

There's nothing quite like finding the perfect gifts for the special people in your life ... and then realizing that you have to wrap all of them in shiny wrapping paper, bows

and curly ribbons. But this year you don't have to. Members of the Families in Transition VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) program will be wrapping gifts at the Barnes & Noble at 1741 South Willow St. in Manchester on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The program will be accepting donations in exchange for their members' gift-wrapping services. These donations will go directly to their professional development trainings and service, so that they may better serve the nonprofits they volunteer at. So you'll avoid having to wrap all those presents, and you'll help these volunteers help your community.

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Folk Classes and Dance

• **AFRICAN DANCE** and drumming workshop taught by Theo Martey on Fridays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Murphy's Gym, 163 Lake Ave., Manchester. The Akwaaba Ensemble features West African drumming and dance. Cost is \$13; purchase a card for \$72 for six weeks. Drums provided if you don't have them. See www.akwaabaensemble.com

ble.com or call 224-5582.

• **BEGINNERS LINE DANCING** at the Circle 9 Ranch, 39 Windymere Drive, Epsom, Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Visit www.circle9ranch.com or call 736-9656.

• **BORDER CITY SQUARES** offers square dance lessons every Mon., 7-9 p.m. First night is free. Dance is held at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 4 Watson St., Nashua. See bordercitysquares.freesevers.com or call



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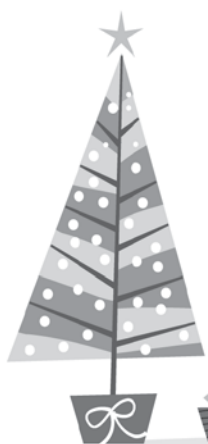
December Menu

Sun Dried Tomato Pesto Spread
Golden Russett and Creamy Carrot Soup
Apple Pecan Slaw
Winter Solstice Fruit Bread
Chicken and Eggplant Napolitana

— or —

Winter Vegetable Cassoulet
Dijon Dill Brussel Sprouts
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073284

Treasure hunt

An antiques expert helps you
search for buried treasure

Dear Donna,
I was wondering if there are collectors out there for Pine Island Park items. I recently found this tucked in a drawer in my parents' garage and they told me some of the history. My question now is, are items from there collectible? This paper is in good clean condition, so I would love to find it a home with someone who would like to have it.

Shirley in Manchester

Dear Shirley,
Depending on how old you are, you might remember something about Pine Island Park. Even though it closed when I was just a baby I can remember the stories about the park. Pine Island opened in the early 1900s and closed in the 1960s. I am sure you can learn a lot more than I can tell you about it from the Historic Association.

What I can tell you is that it was a family fun park with swimming, rides, and lots of excitement for the Manchester area. Today all that is left is a family park.

For some reason you don't see much from Pine Island Park, so yes, items are desirable to local collectors. The value depends on the item and its rarity. Paper is tough to keep over time, so it's valuable, and if it's clean that's even better. I would

PINE ISLAND

NOW OPEN DAILY

say the value on your poster would be in the \$40 range. It's a great piece of local memorabilia to have, and I do hope you find someone who will frame it and display it. Who knows? Maybe if you do research you might even grow fond of it and keep it and start your own collection.

Donna Welch has spent more than 20 years in the antiques and collectibles field and owns From Out of the Woods Antique Center in Goffstown (www.fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com). She is an antiques appraiser, an instructor and a licensed auctioneer. To find out about your antique or collectible, send a clear photo of the object and information about it to Donna Welch, From Out Of The Woods Antique Center, 465 Mast Road, Goffstown, N.H., 03045. Or e-mail her at footwdw@aol.com. Or drop by the shop (call first, 624-8668).

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Mass Time**

**December 24th at
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*I'll Be home for Christmas...
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073686

Cheryl Imbody at 438-2366.

- **CONTRA DANCE** at the East Concord Community Center (18 Eastman St., Concord) on Sat., Dec. 17, from 8 to 11 p.m. Beginners, signles and families are welcome. Admission is \$7 for adults over 25, \$5 for those between 15 and 25, and free for those under 15. Call 225-4917.
- **ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE** at Presidential Oaks (200 Pleasant St., Concord) on Sun., Dec. 11, from 5:30 to 7:45 p.m. Dave Bate-man will lead the dances with Vince O'Donnell and Justine Paul. Beginners and singles welcome. Admission is \$8. Call 934-2543.
- **HAPPY TIME SQUARES** meets every Wednesday in the Community Room of the Rochester Community Center, 150 Wakefield St., Rochester. Members range from 8 to 80, and anyone interested in learning about Contemporary Square Dance is encouraged to attend. See www.happytimesquares.org.
- **MILL CITY CONTRA DANCE** at the Waumbec Mill, 250 Commercial St., Manchester, the third Friday of every month. A beginners' workshop takes place at 7:30 p.m., while the dance goes from 8 to 11 p.m. No partner necessary; all dances taught. Costs \$8 for adults, \$5 for students (under 12 free). See tinyurl.com/Mill-City-Contra.
- **GREEK FOLK DANCING** Sunday evenings at the St. George Greek Orthodox Community Center in Manchester. Open to everyone. Call 497-4581.
- **LINE DANCING** on Mondays at the Nashua Activity Center, beginners 4:45-5:45 p.m., improvers 7-8 p.m. Cost is \$50, runs for eight weeks.
- **LINE DANCING** on Wednesdays at Campbell High School (Highlander

In the spotlight



**Toy drive at
the Discovery
Center**

The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center (2 Institute Drive) in Concord is conducting a food and toy drive to help New Hampshire families in need this season. The Center asks for new, unwrapped toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign, which will be held through Friday, Dec. 16. Non-perishable food items will be collected through Saturday, Dec. 31, for the New Hampshire Food Bank. Visitors who bring one item of food will receive \$1 off regular admission price to the Center. Visitors who bring in two or more items of food will receive a 10-percent discount on purchases made in the Center's Science Store. Collection boxes are located at the front desk in the Science Store, and items can be dropped off Thursday through Sunday between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Call 271-7827.

Way, Litchfield), 7-8 p.m., contact Campbell HS Community Program at 546-0300.

- **LINE DANCING** on Thursdays at the Windham Senior Center (2 North Lowell Road, Windham), 9:45-10:45 a.m., for 4 weeks. Call the Windham Rec. Dept. at 965-1208.

- **LINE DANCING** on Mondays and Thursdays at the Nashua Sr. Center. Absolute Beginners-Beginners and Improver classes offered. Contact CJ at nhgrizzlies@comcast.net for info, times and fee.

- **LINE DANCING LESSONS** at the Mill-a-Round Dance Center. Beginner, easy, intermediate, available on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. Cost is \$8.

Visit www.millaround.com for specific dates and times.

- **RHYTHM LINE DANCING** at Royal Palace Dance Studio on Tuesdays 6:15-7 p.m. Visit royalpalacedance.com or call 621-9119.

- **SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING** on Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 215 Main St., Nashua (e-mail nashuascd@comcast.net); and second and fourth Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 69 Washington St., Keene (call Bill Schenck, 352-6968). Visit rscdsboston.org for a complete list.

- **SQUARE DANCE FAMILY FUN NIGHTS** hosted by Heel & Toe Square Dance Club at the Cercle

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Save money by wasting less

U.S. grant gives Nashua residents help on energy-efficiency

Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

When times are tough, people look for ways to save a buck. A new organization may be able to do that for everyone in Nashua.

Nashua BetterBuildings is a new program (it got up and running only last spring) derived from a \$10 million grant from the federal government's Office of Energy.

The sole purpose of Nashua BetterBuildings is to save people money by reducing energy use. There are two ways of doing this. The first is conservation, which doesn't cost you anything but means you must alter your lifestyle — shut off lights when you leave the room, turn the thermostat down, etc. Then there is energy-efficiency, which might have an initial cost but means you're using less energy without changing your lifestyle.

A proposal went out to all 234 or so New Hampshire towns, according to Bob Eldredge, community manager for the Nashua office. About 29 towns responded and three were chosen to have BetterBuildings offices: Nashua, Plymouth and Berlin. These are region-specific, which means, unfortunately, only people who live in those three towns can maximize their services. Within each office there is a community manager, like Eldredge, who is the energy guy, the coach. There is also a technical adviser who does quality control and turns tech lingo into English.

Here is how the process goes:

A resident of Nashua or representative of a company in Nashua can come into the BetterBuildings office and talk with Eldredge about options. Most likely this will begin with setting up a visit from a home energy analyst. This means an outside company will come to your home and find out where you are wasting energy and make recommendations for repairs to save energy. Eldredge said his office will pay \$250 toward the analysis, which means it'll only cost you around \$100.

The analysis usually leads to eight or 10 recommendations. Eldredge said typically there are a number of places within a home (most often the attic) where hot air flows up and then leaves. When it is leaving, it pulls in cold air behind it, so in essence, as you turn up your heat, you're heating cold air up so it can leave your house.

Eldredge will provide a write-up that will show each recommendation, an estimated cost, and, right next to it, an estimated cost savings and all the different rebates available. Then the homeowner or business can choose to undertake whatever recommendations they can afford and in the order that will provide the most savings. Eldredge estimated people can cut their energy bills on average by 20 to 30 percent.

When the homeowner does decide on an action, Eldredge will recommend quality contractors and the technical adviser



Performing a door test. Courtesy photo.

will check in periodically to make sure the work is being done correctly. When the work is done, another analysis will be done to make sure the home isn't too buttoned up — a certain amount of air needs to flow.

Because Nashua BetterBuildings is funded by the grant, it doesn't charge anything for its services and it gets no personal benefit from the recommendations. The best interest of the consumer is the goal.

"In Nashua we're beginning to break down the barrier of financial worry," Eldredge said. "We've been able to get a good amount of people to make changes and see the savings. And now their neighbors are beginning to contact us."

Eldredge said a sample project could cost, say, \$5,000. But BetterBuildings has a deal with NationalGrid that will reimburse 50 percent on a project up to \$4,000. So they'll pay \$2,000 of that \$5,000, BetterBuildings will pay \$1,250, which means the homeowner will pay \$1,000 for \$5,000 worth of work. And these are instant rebates, which means you don't have to front all of the cash.

Of course, these rebates are often hidden, which is why it is good to have BetterBuildings on your side — they know where to look for them. While the rebates mentioned above are only for residents of Nashua, there are still a lot of things people can do to make their homes more energy-efficient.

Nashua BetterBuildings will host a seminar on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. at the Nashua Public Library called "Button Up your Home for Winter." It will give all homeowners, not just Nashua residents, tips on how to reduce their energy bills.

Button Up your Home for Winter

When: Thursday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m.

Where: Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua

More info: Call 589-4610 or visit better-buildingsnh.com

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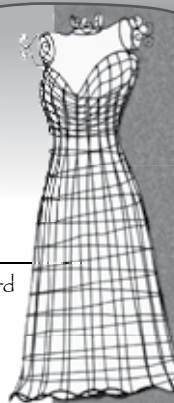
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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

A common light

NH looks beyond the dark with inter-cultural events.

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

In the chaos of the season, it can be difficult to remember what the holidays are really about.

That's why organizations such as the Mariposa Museum and the Unitarian Universalist Church in Peterborough put effort into creating events celebrating the coming of the light, which show us that despite our differences in culture, tradition, and religion, we all "have a light within us," said Terry Reeves, the coordinator of the Mariposa Museum.

The Mariposa Museum (26 Main St., Peterborough) will be holding the "Festival of Lights" on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 2 p.m. Education Director Terry Reeves created an afternoon of festivities traditional to six December holidays around the world: Las Posadas, Diwali, Kwanzaa, Hannukah, St. Lucia's Day and Christmas.

Children, families, and adults come to celebrate the particular traditions of each of these holidays with artifacts, stories, crafts and treats. Reeves will tell of the traditions and the stories that go along with these holidays.

"After all, that's how people learn, is through stories," Reeves said. "I like to see the mixture of ages come in. I think it's a wonderful way to celebrate the holidays..." Reeves said.

"Our hope is that when people learn about another culture, it will make clear that we're all part of the human family, and that there are a number of traditions that celebrate the light within," Reeves said. "Our hope is that they will learn that there is another way of celebrating."

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$3 for children. For more information, visit www.mariposamuseum.org or call 924-4555.

The Mariposa Museum will continue to provide stories to visitors throughout December. On Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 6:30 p.m., the Museum will feature master storyteller Sebastian Lockwood reading Dylan Thomas's "A Child's Christmas in Wales" and Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory." Admission to this event is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$5 for members and \$3 for students.

Also in Peterborough, the Unitarian Universalist Church at 25 Main St. will be holding its annual **Solstice Pageant** on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 10 a.m. This pageant also celebrates the coming of the light; however, unlike most pageants, it does not focus on a single religious or Christmas event.

It's a work that drew inspiration from *The Winter Solstice: The Sacred Traditions of Christmas* by John Matthews. In the story told during the pageant, there is no Jesus, Mary, Moses or God character; The Sun, the Christmas Candle, the Christmas Tree, Hanukkah, the Yule Log, St. Lucia, and the Winter Kings are played by the children who represent the "light



Sarah Franklin acts as the Fool and Charlotte Lasky, Isara Moriya and Mikala Mackesy act as the stars in a past Solstice Pageant production.

that brightens the dark." The child actors recite poetry beneath darkened windows, until the grand finale, when the children "bring in the light," which represents rebirth.

"A Solstice Pageant" was conceived and written by Sarah Franklin, who is the educational director at the Unitarian Universalist Church. She wrote the play five years ago, and the children in Peterborough have been taking part in the Pageant ever since. The play changes each year, but the elements remain the same.

"I saw the pageant as a great opportunity to create something dramatic and fun, but also something with meaning," Franklin said.

This free event brings in people from the entire community and provides an opportunity for the children watching and taking part to learn about different holidays and their common theme.

"It's really about the changing seasons and how people need to have something to look forward to. The shortest day of the year was celebrated because it meant that everything was shifting back toward the light. It's simple, but it's symbolic," Franklin said.

People of all cultures, traditions and religions are invited to attend the Solstice Pageant.

There is also an opportunity to experience Christmas around the world at the **Hampstead Parade** on Saturday, Dec. 10, which is in fact themed "Christmas around the world" this year. The parade begins at 2 p.m. on Main Street and ends at the Hampstead Fire Station (17 Little Lane). The Hampstead Firemen's Association, which is hosting the event, invites all to the station after the parade, where trophies will be awarded to the winning floats. Santa will be at the fire station at the end of the event with chocolate, cookies and treats.

The New England Language Center's International Gallery in Rochester will be holding a **Russian Christmas Bazaar** on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 11 to 3 p.m. This free event will feature an exhibit of contemporary Russian art, and visitors can learn about traditional Russian icons, storytelling, and history about the holiday crafts. Call 332-2255.

National Club, 550 Rockland Ave., Manchester. Couples, singles, and families are welcome. Call 497-3484 or 497-3414.

• **WORLD DANCE** on second and fourth Thursday of each month, 7-9 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Milford. All dances taught each night. Call 487-2732 or e-mail maryfloyd62@comcast.net.

MISCELLANEOUS Expos/festivals/fairs

• **HOLIDAY CRAFT FESTIVAL** at Rockingham Park Race-track, 79 Rockingham Pk. Blvd, Salem. Dec. 10 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Dec. 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Holiday

• **BIG/LITTLE HOLIDAY PARTY** will take place at the Bed-

ford Village Inn (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford) on Thurs., Dec. 8, from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Enjoy cash bar, champagne, three-course dinner, dessert buffet, live band and dancing. Admission is \$65. Early reservations recommended due to limited seating; call 472-2001 to reserve a space or visit www.bedfordvillageinn.com.

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to 8 p.m. at Canterbury Shaker Village, www.shakers.org. The Village will be lit up and decorated for the season. Enjoy a candlelight stroll or take a horse-drawn sleigh or wagon ride through the Village. Stop in the decorated historic buildings to enjoy entertainment including live musical performances by popular groups, a 19th-century magic show, characters in period costumes, a Gingerbread Spectacular with a treasure hunt, craft demonstrations and hands-on activities for the family. Admission is \$17 (\$8 for ages 6-18, free for children 5 and younger); \$42 family rate for 2 adults and 3 children.

- **FELLS HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR** on Sat., Dec. 10, and Sun., Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tour six beautiful homes in Sunapee, each of which is distinctively decorated in "festive holiday splendor." Begin at the tour headquarters at the Lake Sunapee Protective Association (456 Route 103A, Newbury) overlooking Sunapee Harbor to purchase tickets, which are \$20 in advance or \$25 the day of the event. Call 763-4789 or visit www.thefells.org.
- **CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM** at the New Hampshire Farm Museum, 1305 White Mountain Highway, Milton, on Sat., Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tour decorated historic Jones Farmhouse with costumed role-players, enjoy a horse-drawn sleigh ride, make a Christmas candle to take home, roast chestnuts, and meet the farm animals. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, \$7 for adult members, \$3 for child members. Call 652-7840 or visit www.farmmuseum.org.
- **TREE LIGHTING FESTIVAL** begins at 6:30 p.m. on Fri., Dec. 9, at WWI Common in Amherst, N.H. Festivities last until Dec. 11 with live music, breakfasts, hay rides, visits from Santa, open houses, and spaghetti suppers. Email Ann Bergin at ACBergin@aol.com.
- **FESTIVE HOLIDAY SHOPPING EVENT** on Sat., Dec. 10. Downtown Warner will host Santa, horse and carriage rides, a presentation of "The Gingerbread Man" and more at this year's shopping event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shopping day will also feature gift bazaar, food samplings, free hot cider, arts and craft activities, and more. Visit www.keeperschamber.org/Holiday2011.
- **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA** brought by the Friends of the Chester Public Library on Sat., Dec. 10 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Chester Municipal Center, 84 Chester St., Chester. Admission is \$5 per person with max charge of \$20 per family. Take photos with Santa and enjoy pancake breakfast, rafts, games, holiday stories and raffles. Proceeds benefit Chester Public Library. Call 887-3404.
- **LIGHTS ON THE HILL** takes place Sat., Dec. 10, and Sun., Dec. 11, from 4 to 8 p.m. Activities will be hosted in historic 19th-century buildings. The event, which includes a live nativity scene, begins at the corner of Route 27 and South Road. Walk through village lined with luminaries or take shuttle bus to sites. Event also includes live music, shopping, craft making, balloon sculptures, and gift-wrapping help from elves. Donate hats, gloves or socks.
- **SEE SANTA AND MRS. CLAUSE** at the Oval in Milford on Sun., Dec. 11, from noon to 2 p.m. Santa's elves and Yukon Jack will be taking part in the festivities. A postal worker will be collecting letters for Santa.
- **FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS** to take place at the Mariposa Museum (26

In the spotlight



Music for all

Learn some instrumental tunes to go along with those carols at the Concord Community Music School's Piano Workshop Week. The public is invited to attend free workshops at the school (23 Wall St., Concord) on Thursday, Dec. 8, and Friday, Dec. 9. Classes on Thursday include an Integrated Arts workshop at 4 p.m. (all ages), a Paper Plate Orchestra Musical Forum at 4 p.m. (ages 8 to adult), "Glimmering Glissando" at 4 p.m. (ages 11 to 13), "Is it Real or is it Memorex?" at 4:30 p.m. (ages 13 to adult), "Express Yourself, Express Yourself, Express Yourself" at 5 p.m. (ages 10 to 17) and "Drawn to the Music" at 5 p.m. (grades 5 and 6). On Friday at 5 p.m., there is a performance workshop for intermediate and advanced levels age 12 and older. Performance classes are conducted in a master class or "public lesson" format, in which the teacher works with pre-selected performers on stage in a way designed to provide learning for the audience. Concord Community School will also provide a number of workshops in the spring. Visit www.ccmusicschool.org or call 228-1196, ext. 24.

In the spotlight



Lego guessing games

It's like charades (or Pictionary) but with Legos. Kids who sign up for the Brictionary workshop on Monday, Dec. 12, at SEE Science Center (200 Bedford St., Manchester) will work together in groups to build Lego constructions, and then try to guess what each other's objects represent. This workshop, which was created and will be run by Brickapalooza, encourages kids to work together and creatively find solutions to challenges. Sign up for either the 12:30-to-2:30 p.m. workshop or the 3:45-to-5:45 p.m. workshop at www.see-sciencecenter.org or by calling 669-0400. Registration costs \$28 per child.

Main St., Peterborough) on Sun., Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. Event will feature stories, crafts, and treats that follow the Los Posadas, Diwali, Kwantza, Chanukah, St. Lucia's Day and Christmas traditions. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for children. Visit www.mariposamuseum.org.

- **HOLIDAY COOKIE AND CANDY TOUR** will be held at the Mount Washington Valley N.H. Inn, with decorating ideas, trees, recipe cards, collector's ornaments, prizes and treats. The tour will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 10, and Sun., Dec. 11. Call 800-338-11356 or visit www.countryinnsinthewhittemountains.com.
- **DOO WOP CHRISTMAS WITH BELAIRS** will be presented by the Merrimack Public Library on Wed., Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. Bel Airs are a five-member oldies vocal group who have performed through the area at retirement homes, fairs, etc. Event is free and open to all. Space is limited, so register by calling 424-5021 or emailing mmkpl@merrimack.lib.nh.us.

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- **Manchester Monarchs Hockey** Verizon Wireless Arena, 555 Elm St., monarchshockey.com, 626-7825
- **NH Fisher Cats Baseball** 1 Line Drive, Manchester,

641-2005, nhfishercats.com

- **Verizon Wireless Arena** 555 Elm St., Manchester, 868-7300, verizonwirelessarena.com

Ice Skating

- **ICE SKATING LESSONS** for Session 2 through the Concord Rec. Dept. Register at White Park office, by mail or online. www.concordnh.gov/recreation.

Runs/running/walks

- **FREEZE YOUR BUNS** in the five-race series hosted by the Gate City Striders on Jan. 9, Jan. 23, Feb. 20 and March 6 at 9 a.m. Admission is \$5 per race 19 and over, \$4 per race 15-18 and \$3 per race for kids under 14. Pre-registration for the series is \$20 for those 19 and over, \$15 for those 15-18 and \$12 for those under 15. Meet at the Conway Arena Register at 8 Riverside St. in Nashua. To register or find out more information at www.gatecity.org. Contact Leann and Trevor Ward at run-fyb@gatecity.org.

Spectator

- **MANCHESTER MONARCHS** (Verizon Wireless Arena, 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000 minor-league affiliate of the L.A. Kings. See www.monarchshockey.com.) Upcoming home games include Sun., Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. vs. the Pirates; Fri., Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. vs. the Ice Caps; Sun., Dec. 16, at 3 p.m. vs. the Sharks.



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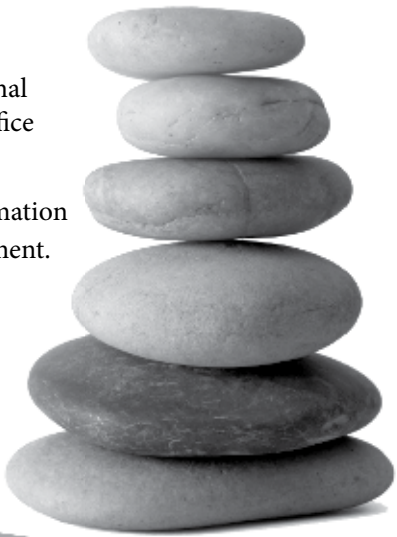
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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

The world's a winter nursery

Use found plant material to decorate the holiday home

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

Once again, my garden is just about out of steam. Winter is upon us — not by the calendar, but with temperatures dropping into the low 20s recently, I say it's winter. It's no longer possible to step outside and fill a vase with my own flowers. The only flowers still blooming are my intrepid Johnny Jumps-Ups (*Viola tricolor*). At one time or another they have bloomed for me every month of the year. That's right, if we have a January or February thaw, the Johnnys may well bloom. But still, I long for more variety.

As a freelance writer, I don't have a big budget for cut flowers. But I do believe in buying a few stems to brighten the table on a regular basis. Recently I bought three stems of what are called "spider mums" for a total of just \$4.50. I then went outside to see what I might add to these flowers to fill up the vase. There is a remarkable amount of useable material outside, both in the garden and in the wild.

The general rule of thumb is that an arrangement should be two to three times the height of the vase. I selected an 8-inch vase and cut the mums down to about 20 inches. The mums are white, so to add color I cut some stems of winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*). Winterberry is our native deciduous holly plant that flaunts bright red berries at this time of year. They are commonly sold landscape plants but also grow wild in wet places along the road. They grow 4 to 12 feet tall; the stems I cut were about 3 feet long and branched.

I decided to cut off 12-inch side shoots and use them to form the lower portion of the arrangement. I put the tall mums in the center of the vase and their green leaves added a contrasting color and filled out the space between the blossoms and the berries. I also added a section of a clematis vine for more greenery.

At this time of year I crave greenery, so I was delighted to notice nice glossy leaves on my fall-blooming clematis (*Clematis paniculata*), a vine that I grow on a trellis. I had never before picked a vine to use in a vase, but it worked well. Vines, I just discovered, are wonderful in an arrangement: they are flexible and can be woven through stalks of tall stiff flowers or shrubs.

Next I went outside to collect things that are totally free for a second arrangement. I grow Lenten Rose (*Helleborus orientalis*), an early spring-blooming plant with glossy, evergreen leaves. Each leaf consists of five to nine oval leaflets attached to a central point; each group of leaflets is a foot or so in diameter. By spring this year's leaves will be ratty-looking, but now they still looked good. I selected four leaves to establish a visual base for the arrangement. They looked good in the vase for about five days.

Lacking Lenten rose, I could have used white pine branches for some greenery, or balsam fir or spruce branches. I know better than to use Canadian hemlock in a vase, even though I have plenty of it, because it drops its short, soft needles after just a few days.



Winter arrangement with Lenten rose, redosier dogwood, fountain grass, winterberry. Henry Homeyer photo.

Next I cut six 24-inch stems of redosier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) and added them to the 10-inch-tall, wide-mouthed vase. I grow this shrub mainly for its look in winter. The first-year stems turn bright red in winter, standing out proudly above the snow. Second-year stems (and older) turn a darker, brownish color, so cutting some stems each year keeps the shrub looking at its best. Redosier dogwoods prefer moist soil but will grow almost anywhere, including alongside the road.

Lastly, I cut stems of a tall decorative fountain grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*) and added them to the arrangement. Decorative grasses have become very popular in the landscape design business, but not all perform well after year one. They generally like lean, well-drained soil and my soils tend to be rich and moist, but some years I have some very dramatic 6-foot-tall plants that look good for most of the winter. I have plenty right now.

If you don't have a decorative grass with seed heads to use in an arrangement, you might be tempted to pick some stems of the common reed whose Latin name is *Phragmites australis*. It is commonly seen alongside the road in wet places. It can grow to 10 feet tall and is very dramatic. The pretty part of the plant consists of big fluffy seed heads (on tall stems). But if you do use it, don't throw the seeds in your compost pile, because the plant can be invasive. Burn the seed heads when done with the arrangement — even though I've read that that the plants spread mainly by root.

So don't despair if your flowers have all gone away. Just go outside with your scissors and a pair of pruners. There are plenty of other interesting stems that are free for the taking.

Henry Homeyer's new book is *Organic Gardening* (not just) in the Northeast: A Hands-On, Month-by-Month Guide. His website is www.Gardening-Guy.com. Reach him by e-mail at henry.homeyer@comcast.net

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073395

Shop that messed up should pay up



Dear Tom and Ray:

My "check engine" light illuminated a few weeks after a Jiffy Lube oil change. I took my 2008 Subaru Impreza in to the dealer, and they pulled a shop rag out of my car (it was blocking two-thirds of the air intake). Upon request, Jiffy Lube agreed to pay for the dealer's services (I am still awaiting reimbursement). Several weeks later, both my air/fuel sensor and my mass air sensor failed prematurely. The dealer agreed that these are related to the rag, and helped me draft a letter to Jiffy Lube requesting full reimbursement for \$750. Is there anything else I can or should do, besides NEVER going to this Jiffy

Lube for an oil change again? — Lily

TOM: Well, unfortunately, these things do happen, Lily. I've left rags in some unusual places myself.

RAY: The most embarrassing places are the ones where his wife ends up finding them!

TOM: Usually a rag left in the air-filter housing won't do any damage. But I'm guessing that in your case, it ended up getting sucked into the air intake and substantially blocking it. That caused your engine to run rich (i.e., too much fuel, not enough air).

RAY: And that would instantly cause the sensors to start working to correct the situation. My guess is that the sensors got overworked and overheated, and that's what caused them to fail, turning on the check-engine light.

TOM: So what else might fail? Well, if the sensors were unable to keep up, and the car was allowed to run rich for an extended period of time, the catalytic converters might be damaged.

RAY: Those can run into serious money. But the good news is that your catalytic converters are warranted, by federal law, for eight years or 80,000 miles. And if you bought the car in a state that has adopted California emissions standards, your

converters are covered for 15 years or 150,000 miles! So it's more likely to be your dealer's problem than yours if they fail prematurely. I'd let the dealer decide whether to address the converter issue with Jiffy Lube.

TOM: It might be a hard sell, anyway. Unless your dealer takes the converters down, inspects them and certifies that the honeycombs have already started to melt from overheating, I think you'll have a hard time turning Jiffy Lube upside down and shaking two new converters out of them.

RAY: But they certainly should reimburse you for the sensors. And you are well within your rights never to patronize that particular Jiffy Lube again.

TOM: Yeah, my brother no longer goes to the ear, nose and throat doctor who was clearing out his nose hairs one day and left a gas-powered weed whacker hanging out of each nostril

Dear Tom and Ray:

I have a beloved 1998 Plymouth Voyager Minivan with only 83,000 miles. It has new tires, and was recently serviced (new plugs, leaks plugged, tuneup, etc., for about \$2,000). Last month, I had a bizarre accident and crashed the rear of the

car into a cement post. I gave the rear of the car a huge wedgie, broke the back window and badly damaged the left side of car as well. I want to sell the car to someone, who may want the engine and/or the tires. I have no idea how to go about it. How do I find such a buyer? — Barbara

TOM: I guess "bizarre accident" means you backed into a cement post while talking on the phone, Barbara. Was this one of those accidents that ends with the phrase "I'll have to call you back"?

RAY: Well, a good engine for a '98 Chrysler minivan does have some value. It's probably worth \$500-\$700 these days. And the tires are worth something, too.

TOM: The problem, as you well know, is finding a buyer who happens to need just these particular parts right now. That's traditionally been the job of the junk yard. That's one way to go.

RAY: Of course, junk-yard owners have to make a living, so they may give you \$250 or \$300 for the whole vehicle. Then they'll take it apart and sell the parts for much more, in total.

TOM: So my suggestion would be to try advertising it on one of the websites where people sell each other their junk, like Craigslist or eBay,

for instance. Explain what you told us — that the engine is in good shape, with low mileage for its age, it just had \$2,000 worth of repairs done, the tires are new and it was in a rear-end collision. Say you're looking for someone who wants it for the engine and parts, and see what happens.

RAY: You might find a nearby do-it-yourselfer who just drove his '98 Voyager into a cement pole frontward, and is looking for exactly that engine.

TOM: Or you might hear crickets chirping. In which case, you can always take it to your local junk yard then, and take whatever they'll give you for it. All you've lost is a little time.

RAY: And the humiliation of having to look at the car in the driveway for a few more weeks and be reminded that you backed into a pole. Good luck, Barbara.

Get more Click and Clack in their new book, "Ask Click and Clack: Answers from Car Talk." Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com. (c) 2011 by Tom and Ray Magliozzi and Doug Berman. Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.



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TECHIE

You shouldn't have

If you did, you still have time for returns

By John Andrews
jandrews@hippopress.com



Last week, I told you about a line of cheap video games that should under no circumstances be allowed into your home. There are plenty of other electronics masquerading as good ideas; they seem to emerge especially as shoppers are looking for clever Christmas gifts. And while many of them inhabit drug stores, they can pop up anywhere.

• **Brookstone Pillow Remote Control** (upper left photo): Ever look at the throw pillows on your couch and think that there weren't enough buttons on them? No longer! All the convenience of a universal remote control in a soft, plushy package! With a battery pack inside! Sure, you might accidentally hit a button now and then when you're, you know, laying on it, but — and Brookstone's own product description makes this very clear — *you will never lose it*. On the plus side, it can control up to six devices, and it does turn off automatically after 60 seconds. I know it usually takes me a minute or so to relax after I've changed a channel.

• **Any "e-reader" that's actually a lame tablet** (upper right photo): In one of life's many cruel happenstances, it's actually cheaper to produce a color LCD screen than a monochrome electronic paper screen. The latter is much easier on the eyes and uses far less power, but it's not flashy and it limits the functionality of any device into which it's built. A color screen lets you browse the Web, play games, watch video! Yeah, in theory. In practice, those applications need to be matched up with more powerful hardware inside the tablet. If it's under \$100, that tablet probably doesn't have a touch screen, and even if it does, it's almost certainly not a responsive multi-touch screen. Name brand e-readers are under \$100 now. Get one of those.

• **"Digital" photo frames** (bottom right photo): If it costs about \$10, it's probably not what you think. A real digital photo



frame displays digital photos, and can usually cycle through a bunch you have stored. Some boxes with this label, though, are just regular photo frames with some kind of digital functionality — like a clock or voice recorder. You slip a snapshot into the "glass" (meaning clear plastic) part of the frame and revel in the attached technology only otherwise available in fast food meal giveaway digital watches.

• **Digital camera binoculars** (bottom right photo): These have been around for years, but apparently not enough people have been scammed yet. You might think it's a fantastic idea, sticking a camera inside binoculars so you can get close-up photos of faraway things. But that's not what these are. These are regular binoculars with a completely separate camera grafted onto the middle, usually without any adjustable zoom of its own. They make cameras with the ability to zoom in on distant subjects, and they are called "cameras."

• **\$5 speakers**: Okay, there are uses for these. For audio books played from an MP3 player, maybe, all right. But music will never sound good. It will be (slightly) louder than cranking up the headphones, but you'll get tinny, distorted audio that will make your favorite songs sound like junk. And that's worse than just humming them in your head.

Next week: an actual helpful gift guide!

You can always give someone a link to twitter.com/CitizenJaQ.

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- **DERRYFIELD COUNTRY CLUB** 625 Mammoth Road, 669-0235. Free.
- **EXTRA TOUCH GOURMET CAFE** 4 Hawthorne Drive, Bedford, 488-6620.
- **HAROLD SQUARE** 226 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 432-7144, www.harold-square.com. Free.
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- **PATIO & PAVILION RESTAURANTS** Hilton Garden Inn, 101 S. Commercial St., 669-2222. Free.
- **PENUCHE'S GRILL** 96 Hanover St., 626-9830.
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- **REPUBLIC** 1069 Elm St., Manchester, 666-3723
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Weekly Dish

Notes from the local food scene

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

• **Spread Christmas cheer:** The Holy Grail Pub, 64 Main St., Epping, 679-9559, will accept new, unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots through Friday, Dec. 23.

• **Taste the wines that support homeless animals in NH:** IncrediBREW will conduct a few free local wine tastings to promote its line of wines that support that Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire. Tastings will be held at Sully's Superette in Goffstown on Friday, Dec. 9, from 4 to 6 p.m.; Harvest Market in Bedford on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 4 to 7 p.m.; A Market in Manchester on Friday, Dec. 16, from 4 to 6 p.m., and the Drinkery in Londonderry on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

• **Dishes for all diets:** Laura Piazza, author of *Recipes for Repair*, will sign copies of her book at Toadstool Bookshop, 586 Nashua St., Milford, on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 6:30 p.m. The book contains 151 recipes that are vegetarian, gluten-, dairy- and egg-free and leave out the sugar, white flour and other processed, refined or artificial ingredients.

• **Opportunities for beer and wine making in 2012:** IncrediBREW, 112 DW Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com, will host Happy New Beers (\$35 for a variety case of beer) on Friday, Jan. 6, at which customers will learn how to make Coffee Milk Stout, English Style Summer Ale, Imperial Black IPA, Belgian Strong Ale and a clone of the brewery's 10th Anniversary brew; Super Tuscan, Granny Smith Riesling, Amarone, Gruner Veltliner, German Riesling and Merlot will be made at the Top 6 Winefest (\$60 for six bottles of wine) on Friday, Jan. 13, at 6 p.m.; Black Satin, Big Boy Stout, Smoked Porter, Russian Imperial Stout, Irish Dry Stout, Imperial Black IPA and Robust Porter will be made at the Dark and Stormy Night Brewfest (\$60 for two cases of beer) on Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 6 p.m.; Italian Amarone (\$85 for 10 bottles) will be made on Thursday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m.; and red, pale and brown ales will be made at Abe's Alefest (\$35 for a variety case of beers) on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are required for all events.

• **Start the new year off right:** Concord Cooperative Market, 24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop, will start its "Lose It, Too!" program, a 10-week series held at Concord Hospital on Mondays from 6 to 7:30 p.m., on Jan. 9. The program will feature cooking demonstrations, nutrition and fitness consultations and exercise and fitness tips. Students will be given a cookbook filled with recipes for 500-calorie dinners. The series costs \$40 and spots can be reserved by calling 225-6840.

• **Get your crockpots ready:** The first annual Souhegan Valley Chili Chowder Cookoff will be held at the Amherst Business Center on Route 101A in Amherst on Sunday, Jan. 29, from 1 to 6 p.m. There will be a \$10 entry fee for amateurs (\$25 entry fee for

Continued on page 52

Christmas dinner to go

Plan now to celebrate a little more, cook a little less

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

You can really work up an appetite decorating the Christmas tree, wrapping gifts and taking in a showing of the Nutcracker. Give yourself more time to enjoy the holiday season, and give your oven a break, by ordering a feast from a local eatery. Order early to ensure that you can deck your table with prime rib, mashed potatoes and pecan pie.

• **The Alpine Grove**, 19 S. Depot St., Hollis, 882-9051, alpinegrove.com, is offering three different feasts to go, each one feeding up to 16 guests. Customers may choose from a prime rib dinner served with mashed potatoes, carrots, butternut squash, rolls, butter and a cheesecake for \$199.99, a ham dinner with all of the same sides for \$159.99 and a turkey dinner, which includes all sides plus an order of stuffing, for \$149.99. Orders will be taken until noon on Tuesday, Dec. 20, and must be picked up between 10 a.m. and noon on Saturday, Dec. 24.

• **Belmont Hall & Restaurant**, 718 Grove St., Manchester, 625-8540, belmonthall.net. Among Belmont Hall's appetizer offerings are stuffed mushroom caps, shrimp cocktail, scallops wrapped in bacon and mini steak kabobs. Also available are buckets of chicken tenders, \$45 for a bucket to feed up to 12 people and \$75 to feed up to 150. For dessert, the restaurant offers a variety of pies including pork, minced meat, chocolate cream, lemon meringue, blueberry apple and pumpkin. Orders must be in by Friday, Dec. 23, and picked up by 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24.

• Holiday sweets are also abundant at **The Black Forest Café**, 212 Route 101, Amherst, 672-0500, theblackforestcafe.com. The café's holiday menu features apple, cranberry apple and pecan pies, a chocolate caramel walnut tart, cranberry walnut crostata, chocolate mousse cake, mocha chocolate layer cake, coconut and carrot cakes, chocolate mint and white chocolate Frangelico tortes, coffee cakes, and a holiday cookie collection, which can be ordered by the dozen or in three sizes of holiday cookie baskets. The café also offers "U-BAK-EM" pecan sticky buns, a pan of nine ready-to-bake buns complete with baking instructions. Orders must be in by Tuesday, Dec. 20, and picked up by Saturday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m.

• **Bull Run Beef & Specialty Shoppe**, 1100 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 669-0891, are offering prime rib, penthouse roast (a New York sirloin cut) and a tenderloin roast cut to order for the holidays. Pies from A Slice of Heaven bakery will also be available. Orders must be in by Wednesday, Dec. 21, and picked up by 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24.

• Whole roasted 10- to 36-pound turkeys with stuffing and gravy are available at **Hart's Turkey Farm**, 233 DW Highway, Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.



com. Customers may opt to order pints and quarts of cranberry sauce, whipped potatoes, squash, beans, beets, carrot relish chutney and extra gravy and stuffing. Cornbread, rolls, apple, blueberry, chocolate chip, chocolate cream, mince meat, pecan, pumpkin, raspberry cream and squash pies, cheesecake, blueberry, cranberry walnut and orange sweet breads will also be available. A limited number of turkey orders will be taken by Wednesday, Dec. 21, and all orders must be picked up by 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24.

• **Jerome's Deli**, 393 Bridge St., Manchester, 623-5388, is offering you-bake breakfast items for the holidays. Customers will have their choice of "Breakfast in Bread" (a sourdough round loaf baked with egg and cheese and a choice of ham, bacon or sausage), baked praline french toast and sticky buns. Orders must be in by Tuesday, Dec. 22, and picked up by 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24.

• A variety of roasts including prime rib, top sirloin, boneless and bone-in ribeyes, tenderloin and pork roast are available for the holidays at **The Meat House**, 920 Central Avenue, Dover, 834-6328; 16 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, 227-5261; 75 Portsmouth Ave., Exeter, 418-6557; 2222 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, 422-6328, themeathouse.com. The Meat House will also offer ham, Christmas geese and plenty of side dishes including macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes and vegetables. Pies and fresh baked goods are also available. Most orders need to be in by Saturday, Dec. 17, and picked up between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24. (Some orders may be placed the morning of Saturday, Dec. 24; call for details.)

• In addition to its regular bakery items, **Michelle's Gourmet Pastries & Deli**, 819 Union St., Manchester, 647-7150, michellespastries.com, will offer yule logs, tortes, red velvet cupcakes, gingerbread men, cranberry loaves and cookie platters for the holidays. Orders must be in by Monday, Dec. 19, and picked up on Friday, Dec. 23, by 5:30 p.m. or Saturday, Dec. 24, by 2 p.m.

Baked goods for walk-in customers will be available on a first come, first served basis.

• **Queen City Cupcakes**, 790 Elm St., Manchester, 624-4999, qccupcakes.com, will offer eight to 10 varieties of cupcakes for order by Friday, Dec. 23. Orders must be picked up by 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24.

• **Red Arrow Diner**, 61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118, and 63 Union Square, Milford, 249-9222, www.redarrowdiner.com, will offer a wide variety of pies for the holiday including pork, salmon, chocolate, coconut and banana cream, custard, pumpkin cream, brownie cream, death by chocolate, apple, strawberry rhubarb, chocolate peanut butter, blueberry, pecan, cherry, chocolate coconut cream, lemon meringue, Boston cream and raspberry. Orders must be placed by Friday, Dec. 23. Pies will also be available for purchase on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

• **The Red Blazer**, 72 Manchester St., Concord, 224-4101, theredblazer.com, is serving custom pies and cheesecakes in addition to traditional favorites including pumpkin, apple, blueberry, cherry, lemon meringue, chocolate and coconut cream pies. Assorted cookie platters and bite-sized cheesecakes and carrot cakes are also available. Orders must be in by Sunday, Dec. 18, and picked up by 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 23.

• **Seed to Stalk**, 6 Bedford Farms Drive, Bedford, 645-8300, seedtostalknh.com, is offering a variety of appetizer and sandwich platters, quiches, dips and breads for the holidays including Herb Goat Cheese Stuffed Dates, Beef or Smoked Salmon Carpaccio, Ground Lamb Meatballs and Vegan Tofu Salad. Orders must be in by Friday, Dec. 23, at 2 p.m. and picked up by 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24.

• Meat is on the holiday menu at **Shellie's Neighborhood Butcher Shop**, 38 Crystal Ave., Derry, 505-4558, pauliesbutcher.com. The shop is taking orders for baked ham (\$129.95), turkey (\$149.95) and boneless and bone-in prime rib roast cut and tied (\$189.95) dinners with a variety of side dishes. Orders will also be taken for

FOOD

crown roasts, stuffed pork roasts, ham, turkey, pies and Mediterranean dishes such as stuffed peppers, stuffed cabbage and Spanakopita. Orders must be placed by Sunday, Dec. 18, and picked up by Saturday, Dec. 24, at 6 p.m.

• You can order spiral ham and turkey dinners for the holidays at **Twelve Pine Restaurant & Gourmet Marketplace**, 11 School St., Peterborough, 924-6140, twelvepine.com. The restaurant will also offer a variety of side dishes including stuffing, mashed and sweet potatoes and Christmas yule logs for dessert. Orders must be in by Sunday, Dec. 18, and picked

up Saturday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m.

• Homemade apple, blueberry, pumpkin, chocolate cream, pecan pies are available for the holidays at **Washington Street Catering & Café**, 88 Washington St., Concord, 228-2000, washingtonstreetcatering.com, in addition to the café's regular catering menu. All orders must be in by Tuesday, Dec. 20, and picked up by noon on Saturday, Dec. 24.

Know of a place offering a feast to go that isn't mentioned here? Let us know at food@hippopress.com for possible inclusion in a future Weekly Dish.

Derry gets a cupcake shop

Kate & Grace a place to relax, with frosting

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Karen Perry keeps it simple at her new Derry shop. Only two items are scrawled in chalk on her menu: cupcakes and coffee.

"I hope to be a place where people can come in, get coffee, set up their computer, work away and relax," Perry said. "I want it to be a place where people can just hang out and talk."

Perry opened Kate & Grace Cupcakes on Manning Street in Derry on Nov. 8 and celebrated her grand opening on Nov. 19. Kate and Grace are the middle names of her two daughters, Ashley, 8, and Ava, 4. Noticing the strings of her mother's chocolate-smeared apron were coming untied, Ava Perry helped loop them back into a bow.

"They were very excited [at the shop]," Perry said of her daughters, with whom she often bakes at home. "They wanted to work here, they wanted to help. They've definitely been a big part of the process."

"I wanted to do something for my family to give them a good example that mom can be a mom and a business owner and try to balance it all — hopefully," Perry said.

When she began to notice that cupcake shops were popping up across southern New Hampshire but the craze had not yet reached Derry or Londonderry, Perry, then a stay-at-home mom, decided to open a shop of her own.

"I wanted to start working again," Perry said. "My kids are getting a little older and this is something fun that everyone can enjoy."

Perry said she chose to open her shop in a 1,000-square-foot space in the Manning Street plaza because it is close to her home, sees a lot of foot traffic, sits across the street from the Derry farmers market and has a lot of available parking nearby.

"I don't like going to places that I can't find parking at," she said. The shop, renovated by Perry's husband, Chad, boasts 20 seats at granite bars lining both sides of the dining area, hardwood floors, wireless Internet access and a flat-screen TV. A bench and a four-top table are set up in the front of the shop.

All cupcakes at the shop are grouped by flavor, many of which Perry developed herself, displayed on a granite counter top and under glass bell-shaped covers. On a



Chocolate and vanilla cupcakes from Kate & Grace Cupcakes in Derry. Angel Roy photo.

recent afternoon cupcake flavors included Boston cream (complete with filling and a chocolate frosting topping), chocolate chip, vanilla, chocolate, carrot cake (topped with cinnamon cream cheese buttercream), pecan pie (topped with chocolate ganache), pumpkin chocolate chip, red velvet, Mexican chocolate (made with chili powder and topped with cinnamon buttercream), blueberry pancake (made with blueberries in the batter and topped with maple buttercream) and her daughter Ava's favorite, cookies and cream.

"[Cupcakes are] a small serving," Perry said. "I think everyone likes anything that you can try a variety of without feeling guilty or wasteful and [cupcakes] are a nice treat for kids because you don't have to get a whole cake."

"There are so many different kinds and flavors [of cupcakes] you can get into someone's individual taste," she said.

The cookies and cream cupcakes, Perry said, will likely become a signature sweet of the shop, as will the carrot cake and Boston cream cupcakes.

"The flavors came out of my own imagination and I did a lot of polling around the town, with friends and family — everyone came up with great ideas," Perry said.

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CONCORD

73 Fort Eddy Road
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Katy Magoon
• Digestive Wellness/Loving Live Cultures: Friday, Dec. 9, 3 to 6 p.m. No registration required.
• Free Healthy Living Store Tours: Thursday, Dec. 15, 3 to 7 p.m. or Thursday, Dec. 22, 2 to 5 p.m. Call 228-2060 to register.

MANCHESTER/HOOKSETT

79 Bicentennial Drive
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Marilyn Mills
• Healthy Holiday Appetizers: Monday, Dec. 19, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. No registration required.
• Free Healthy Living Store Tours: Held regularly! Call 644-2106 for info on next tour and to register.

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6 Hampton Drive
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Katy Magoon
• Digestive Wellness: Loving Live Cultures: Friday, Dec. 9, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. No registration required.
• Healthy Living Store Tours: Wednesday, Dec. 14, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. or Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2 to 5 p.m. Call 421-0921 to register.

MANCHESTER/EAST SIDE

859 Hanover St.
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Marilyn Mills
• Season Your Holiday with our Healthy Appetizers: Friday, Dec. 16, 1 to 4 p.m. No registration required.
• Free Healthy Living Store Tours: Held regularly! Call 624-4442 for info on next tour and to register.

MANCHESTER/SOUTH

201 John Devine Drive
Programs run by Nutrition Coordinator Marilyn Mills
• Season Your Holiday with our Healthy Appetizers! Thursday, Dec. 15, 3 to 6 p.m. or Saturday, Dec. 17, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. No registration required.
• Free Healthy Living Store Tours: Held regularly! Call 626-4567 for info on next tour and to register.

NASHUA

175 Coliseum Avenue
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"I always ask my customers for ideas as well. I will make anything if it will be a crowd-pleaser."

Perry said customers should expect to see gingerbread, eggnog, candy cane, hot chocolate (with marshmallow buttercream) and candy cane cupcakes this holiday season. Gluten-free cupcakes will be offered in the future. The daily cupcake offerings, sold for \$3.25 each, will be posted on the shop's Facebook page, she added.

Perry starts baking a modest amount of cupcakes at the shop at 6 a.m. daily. She will increase production with demand. If Perry starts to run out of certain flavors, she said, she will bake more during the day so she does not have to close her doors in the early afternoon.

"I want to keep them fresh," she said. When possible, Perry uses organic and natural products in her baking.

"People like to know where their food comes from these days and I like to support local farms and businesses," Perry said. Among her local ingredients, Perry uses Pete and Gerry's organic eggs and Stonyfield products.

"Nothing beats a fresh cupcake or a fresh product," she said.

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Marshmallow café

Wholesale biz expands to include Hanover Street shop

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

A search on Craigslist for a bakery rack turned into much more for marshmallow-making pals Kristi Buttler and Heather Cox. Two weeks later the two found themselves signing a lease for a storefront adjacent to the Palace Theatre in Manchester.

"We fell in love as soon as we walked in," Buttler said.

The have spent more than a month remodeling the space that was most recently occupied by Crepes Island, hoping to transform it into the Planet Marshmallow dessert café by mid-December. Buttler and Cox started Planet Marshmallow, their wholesale gourmet marshmallow business, last January and produced their 'mallows out of Cox's Milford kitchen. The duo, who met more than five years ago when Buttler responded to Cox's online post about starting a dinner club, had discussed the idea of opening a dessert-only eatery together a few years before they started making marshmallows.

"This is not a new direction; we're just expanding on what we're doing," Buttler said. The focus of the company will be kept on wholesale orders, Cox added.

The dessert café will give customers an opportunity to try the pair's homemade marshmallows in a new way, Buttler said.

"The nice thing here is we will get a chance to really get creative with our marshmallows and we will have an audience to try them," Buttler said. She has been experimenting with a Chinese Five-spice marshmallow. Almond Joy and Rocky Road marshmallows are also in the works. Newer Planet Marshmallow flavors already released are Peppermint Stick, Salted Caramel, Cappuccino, Cinnamon and Pumpkin.

Marshmallows will also be incorporated into the beverage selection at the Planet Marshmallow dessert café. Cox said to expect a s'mores hot chocolate made with steamed milk and topped with graham cracker crumbs.

"The possibilities are endless," Buttler said.

A bakery case will be tucked in the



The Planet Marshmallow dessert cafe is scheduled to open in Manchester in mid-December. Angel Roy photo.

back of the full-service dining room at the dessert café and will be filled with fresh desserts made by Buttler and Cox and their signature cake, a seven-layer tiramisu cake made by Frederick's Pastries in Bedford and Amherst.

"We will do most desserts by ourselves but we can't do a seven-layer cake," Buttler said. The other desserts at the café will change fairly frequently but a few menu mainstays are slated, such as marshmallow fondue and marshmallows to roast tableside.

"We will have things people expect to see at a restaurant when they get dessert, nothing too crazy or fancy," Cox said. "We won't be a place that gives you one tiny drop [of dessert], but they won't be huge either."

While the majority of the business will focus on table service, customers will be able to purchase cookies and maybe cakes at the shop's counter. Gourmet marshmallows will also be available by the bag.

"It won't be the kind of place where you stand and mill around in line after a show or dinner on Elm Street," Buttler said. "It will be a place where you can sit down,

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relax and enjoy the atmosphere."

"It's the kind of place we would want to go to," she said.

While working on the restaurant on nights and weekends, Cox and Buttler have been approached by the crowds leaving the Palace Theatre who also think the Planet Marshmallow dessert café is a place they would want to go.

"They say it's the perfect thing to do after a show — cappuccino, wine, dessert," Buttler said. "I don't think there is another dessert-only restaurant in New Hampshire."

Coffee from A&E Roastery in Amherst will be served at the café but Buttler noted that they won't have "hundreds" of coffee drinks on their menu.

"We won't have regular coffee either," Cox added. "Our regular coffee will be Americano."

"We will do decaf, though," Buttler noted. "I know how important that is and we will do everything to make sure that if you want decaf, you get decaf."

For the wine list, Cox and Buttler will solicit suggestions from knowledgeable friends and do some research of their own. They will also pair desserts with wine and beer.

"This isn't a bar," Buttler said. "It's not the kind of place where you can come in, spend the whole night and drink Bud

Light."

"We won't even have Bud Light," Cox said.

Naming the dessert café was shaping up to be a tough decision but when state regulations did not leave the women much room for creativity, they stuck with the Planet Marshmallow moniker.

The duo plans to set up seven or eight tables inside the front of their eatery, and to line the sidewalk with more tables in the summer.

"We need tables ... but we also don't want people to feel cramped," Buttler said. Bare decorative trees will line the windows of the yellow-walled café, leaving just enough of a view for diners to feel they still have their privacy and for passersby to peek into the eatery. Buttler and Cox have already been in contact with the New Hampshire Institute of Art, asking to display work done by NHIA students on the café walls.

"It will be a cool place where you don't feel like you have to spend 100 bucks," Cox said.

Planet Marshmallow

81 Hanover St., Manchester, planetmarshmallow.com

Coffee beans your way

Woodshed roasts to order

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

A few years ago Brad Fitzgerald was watching an episode of *New Hampshire Chronicle* on WMUR that featured a business that allowed its customers to make their own soda. He had a thought: why couldn't he open a store that let visitors choose their own green coffee beans and roast their own java?

He then sold his business — Conservation Plumbing & Heating in Laconia — after 26 years of being head honcho and tweaked his caffeinated career plans so he could make use of a vacant unit in the industrial plaza he owns, which also houses the plumbing company. Fitzgerald decided to transform the 800-square-foot unit into Woodshed Roasting Company, his wholesale coffee business, in March 2010. Customers can order coffee roasted and ground (or not) to their preferences.

Fitzgerald had always bought his own coffee from small, local roasters.

"I've always enjoyed a good cup of coffee and know the difference between a good cup and a bad cup," he said.

Fitzgerald, who learned the art of roasting at seminars, now arrives at his roastery daily around 8 a.m. and, after checking e-mail and brewing a pot of coffee for himself, checks the list of orders on a dry erase board hanging on a wall and gets to work.

Fitzgerald keeps a dozen 30-gallon barrels filled with green coffee beans in 130-pound burlap sacks. Tags dangle from strings tied to each barrel to indicate where the beans were grown. Fitzgerald purchas-



Coffee beans roasted at Woodshed Roasting Company in Laconia. Angel Roy photo.

es his beans from a New York-based coffee broker but the beans hail from much farther away than the Big Apple; they were grown in regions of South and Central America, Africa, Asia, Hawaii and Jamaica.

The beans arrive every three to four weeks as, in their green state — pre-roast — they have a stable shelf life of a couple of years, Fitzgerald said. The shelf life of the beans diminishes when they are roasted — they can stay fresh up to a year in a sealed package but only for about a month after the bag has been opened, he said.

On a recent Monday morning, Fitzgerald and his only employee, Kevin Groleau, had to get 10 pounds out of the



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door. Twelve pounds of beans are used to produce 10 pounds of coffee because 20 percent of the weight is evaporated through the roasting process, Fitzgerald said. The roasting process, which he demonstrates in a video on the company's website, can take up to 14 minutes, depending on the desired roasting level. Three roasting levels — medium, medium dark and dark — are used at Woodshed. ("There are variations in between but we try to keep it simple," Fitzgerald said.)

The roasted beans are then dumped into a cooling bin where they sit for five minutes: "We need to cool them as quickly as possible so they don't continue to cook," Fitzgerald said. Coffee beans can reach up to 438 degrees during the roasting process and must be cooled down to around 100 degrees.

When cooled, beans designated for wholesale are bagged while the rest are put through the grinder at some point up to three days later. The extra time allows the beans to fully develop their flavor.

"You can't brew a cup of coffee right out of the roaster," Fitzgerald said. "It doesn't have its flavor yet. It needs to mature."

Like wine, beans can boast fruity and earthy tones, he added.

"When you use better beans you can taste the tones in the coffee," he said.

The Morning Blend (a milder medium

roast of four different beans, a little on the darker side) and Signature Blend (a smooth three-bean blend) coffees are the most popular offerings at Woodshed.

Fitzgerald said the majority of his coffee blends were developed through trial and error. Winnepesaukee Weekend was created when he mixed the small quantities of two of his different ground coffees at his home. The French Roast was another "mistake," Fitzgerald said, adding that it was born when he mixed an over-roasted Columbian coffee with Sumatra beans. Customers can customize their brews by selecting beans on the company's website.

Flavored coffees are made and sold at Woodshed. Fitzgerald adds oils to the coffee after roasting to create flavored coffees including Rainforest Crunch (caramel nut), Pumpkin Spice and Banana. Yes, you read that right. Banana-flavored coffee.

"Your first reaction is that you don't taste the flavor, you taste coffee," Fitzgerald said, noting that the flavor comes out in the aftertaste.

Fitzgerald said he knows he will not be able to compete in the same market as the popular K-Cups, but said he offers a higher-quality product.

"It takes three to four minutes to brew coffee," he added. "No matter how hard they try it still takes three to four minutes."

Fitzgerald plans to continue his coffee roasting education through a variety of seminars and one day earn his certification from the Coffee Roasters Guild. He does not plan on opening a coffee shop of his own but instead intends to expand his wholesale market to area restaurants.

The "feel-good transactions" have emerged as one of Fitzgerald's favorite things about his caffeinated career.

"People smile when they come in to get coffee from me," he said. "It's a positive reaction and a positive product."

Food Listings

Winter markets

• **CANTERBURY** in Town Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 14, from 4 to 6:30 p.m., ccfma.net.

• **CONCORD** at Cole Gardens, 430 Loudon Road in Concord, some Saturdays starting with Sat., Jan. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. See www.colegardens.com.

• **DERRY** at the Derry Recreation/Vets Hall, 31 W Broadway, Derry, the first and third Sundays November through March from noon to 4 p.m. See www.derry-nh.org.

• **EPING** 16 Main St. in Epping, the first Friday of each month from November through April, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Call 642-8747.

• **HOOKSETT** at White Birch Brewing, 1339 Hooksett Road in Hooksett, on Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m.

• **MILFORD** at Milford Town Hall Auditorium, 1 Union Square in Milford, on some Saturdays per month through May from 9 a.m. to noon: Jan. 7, Jan. 21; Feb. 18; March 3; March 17; April 14, April 21; May 5, and May 9. See www.milfordnhfarmersmarket.com.

• **NEWMARKET** at Carpenter's Olde English Greenhouse, 220 S. Main St. in Newmarket, the third Saturday of the month from Octo-

ber to April.

• **RAYMOND** at Lamprey River School, 33 Old Manchester Road, on Saturdays, Dec. 17, Jan. 21, Feb. 18 and March 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **SALEM** at United Methodist Church on Pleasant Street on Sundays Dec. 4, Dec. 18, Jan. 15, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Feb. 19 and March 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Visit saalemfarmersmarket.com

• **SEACOAST EAT LOCAL** starts on Nov. 20 and alternates between Wentworth Greenhouses and Rollinsford and Exeter high schools. Visit seacoasteatlocal.org/winterfarmersmarkets/ for a full schedule.

• **TILTON** at 67 E. Main St., every Saturday from January through March, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. See tiltonwinterfarmersmarket.com.

• **WE ARE ONE FARMERS MARKET** at Holy Cross Episcopal Church, 118 Center Road in Weare, Fridays through March 30, 3 to 6:30 p.m. See weare1farmersmarket.org.

Festivals/cook-offs/expos/parties/book events

• **HOLIDAY FOOD GIFTS** Stop by the Downtown Manchester Holiday Market at Brady Sullivan

Plaza, (1000 Elm St., Manchester) to do some holiday shopping and pick up jams and jellies from Laurel Hill, artisan crackers from Craquelins, dry soup and spread mixes from Life's Little Pleasures and baked goods from The Bakeshop on Kelley Street. Santa Claus is also scheduled to make an appearance. The market will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Dec. 8, 15 and 22.

• **HOLIDAY BITES** Concord Cooperative Market, 24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840, concord-foodcoop.coop, will hold its 12 Bites of Christmas event on Thurs., Dec. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. The event will feature a dozen different holiday appetizers including baked brie, marinated artichoke hearts, stuffed grape leaves, poached pears with blue cheese, prosciutto-wrapped shrimp, crab cakes, smoked salmon corn cakes, mini Beef Wellingtons and sliders. Samples of white chocolate and raspberry mousse martinis will also be doled out. Tickets cost \$15.

• **JUDY ROSENBERG** author of *The Rosie's Bakery All-Butter, Cream-Filled, Sugar-Packed Baking Book* will sign copies of her book on Sat. Dec. 10, at 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Call 778-9731 or visit [Hippo | December 8 - 14, 2011 | Page 50](http://waterstreet-</p>
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Weekly Dish

continued from page 44

commercial chefs and restaurants) and all participants will need to prepare samples to share with an estimated 300 event-goers. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners in each "People's Choice" category. Tickets cost \$10 (\$5 for children under 12) at souhegan.net or at the door. Call 673-4360 for information.

• **A little more Onion:** How's Your Onion?, 91 W. Broadway, Derry, 216-8838, howsyouronion.com, is now open 24 hours on Fridays and Saturdays.

• **Pies and parking at the Co-op:** Concord Cooperative Market, 24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop, is now making fresh-to-order pies in its bakery (they will also be available on the shelves of the shop). Pie varieties will include cherry, apple, chocolate cream, coconut cream, pecan, wild Maine blueberry and pumpkin. Call 225-6840 to place an order. The Co-op has also recently hired four parking attendants to monitor the lot next to the store, which is to be used by Co-op customers only. Violators will be towed.

• **Me & Ollie go to the mall:** Me & Ollie's will open at the Fox Run Mall, 45 Gosling Road in Newington, in mid-December. The café, which is the sixth in the state, will be open daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. offering a menu of flatbread pizzas, sandwiches, paninis, cheesecake, cupcakes, breads and granola. The café

will also have a self-serve salad and soup bar. Visit meandollies.com.

• **More burritos in Nashua:** Chipotle Mexican Grill plans to open its second Gate City location at 356 Amherst St. in Nashua, across from Somerset Plaza Shopping Center, in early 2012. The eatery will be open daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and will serve burritos, tacos and salads made with humanely raised meats, organic beans and locally sourced produce, according to a press release.

• **The cupcake craze continues:** Cupcake Conspiracy is open at 583 DW Highway in Merrimack. The shop was opened by long-time residents Lisa Lefebvre and her daughter Stevia. Stevia Lefebvre studied at the New England Culinary Institute and was the manager of the Inn at Thorn Hill in Jackson. The shop is open Tuesday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 262-5619.

• **A taste of France in the Queen City:** Midtown Café, 814 Elm St., Manchester, 935-5401, midtowncafeh.com, is now serving homemade crepes. Customers can opt to order crepes filled with maple syrup, bananas and Nutella, egg and cheese or egg and cheese with bacon, ham or sausage, for breakfast or lunch.

Know of a restaurant hosting a special holiday dinner? Let us know at food@hippopress.com.

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GREAT NEW HAMPSHIRE RESTAURANTS

Continued from page 50

books.com.

• **SANTA BREAKFAST** The Amherst Area Newcomers' Club will host Breakfast with Santa at Amherst Congregational Church, 11 Church St., Amherst, on Sat., Dec. 10, from 9 to 11 a.m.

• **SMALL OFFICE PARTIES** If you have a small office but still want to celebrate the holidays together in a big way, Zorvino Vineyards, 226 Main St., Sandown, 887-8463, zorvino.com, will hold its annual Big/Little holiday parties on Fri., Dec. 9 and Sat., Dec. 10. For \$49.95 per person, the parties will feature passed hors d'oeuvres, a sit down dinner, dancing and a cash bar. Brookstone Grille, 14 Route 111, Derry, 328-9250, brookstone-park.com, will host its More The Merrier holiday celebration on Fri., Dec. 16, from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. The Brookstone party will also cost \$49.95 per person and include a dinner buffet and entertainment. Reservations are required at both venues.

• **MARY ANN ESPOSITO** author of *Ciao Italia Family Classics: More Than 200 Treasured Recipes from Three Generations of Italian Cooks* at Water Street Bookstore, 125 Water St., Exeter, on Sat., Dec. 17, from noon to 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Call 778-9731 or visit waterstreetbooks.com.

• **NEW HORIZONS BENEFIT** will be held at Milly's Tavern, 500 N. Commercial St., Manchester, 625-4444, on Sat. Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. The event will feature performances by local musicians, a

silent auction and light appetizers.

Tickets cost \$10 (\$15 at the door) at helpnewhorizons.org. Donations of clothing (especially warm socks, boots and shoes) and canned food will be accepted.

• **COOKIE SWAP** Concord Cooperative Market, 24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop, will host its 3rd annual Old-Fashioned Cookie Swap on Mon., Dec. 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. Guests are asked to bring 24 homemade cookies to share. The swap is free and open to the public.

• **FREE GIFT WRAPPING** will be offered at The Barley House, 132 N. Main St., Concord, 228-6363, on Mon., Dec. 19 and Tues., Dec. 20, from 4 to 8 p.m.

• **MAC & CHEESE BAKE-OFF** The second annual New Hampshire's Own Macaroni and Cheese Bake-Off, organized by Granite State Dairy Promotion, has been scheduled to be held at the Holiday Inn in Concord on Sat., Jan. 14, from 2 to 6 p.m. Contestants may enter one of four categories: Best of NH (made with 100 percent milk and cheese from NH dairy products), Best Traditional, Most Creative or Exotic and Best Restaurant (a category open only to eateries). The winner of each category will have a chance to be crowned the 2012 grand champion and have their recipe featured on the menu at Cotton (cottonfood.com) in Manchester. Tickets cost \$10 at the door and event goers can vote for the "People's Choice Award." The deadline to enter is Dec. 21 and entry forms can be found at nhdairypromo.org.

Chef events/special meals

• **THE QUILL** The Quill restaurant at Southern New Hampshire University, 2500 N. River Road, Manchester, will serve International dinner on Spa Cuisine on Wed., Dec. 7 and a Culinary Arts Christmas Dinner on Thurs., Dec. 8. Dinners cost between \$15 and \$35. Reservations can be made at fineline@snhu.com or by calling 629-4608.

• **MOTHER AND DAUGHTER TEA** will be held at Village Inn, 2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com, on Sat., Dec. 10 and Saturday, Dec. 17, from 1 to 3 p.m. The tea will be held in the Overlook Dining Room and will feature loose-leaf teas, finger foods and a performance by a holiday pianist. The cost is \$29.95 and reservations are required.

• **MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE** Republic Café, 1069 Elm St., Manchester, 666-3723, republiccafe.com, will offer unique dishes from Mediterranean countries weekly. Turkish specials and a Turkish-influenced prix fixe menu will be served daily from Mon., Dec. 5, through Sun., Dec. 11. Egyptian food will be featured as a special in January.

• **KATHY GUNST**, author of *Notes from a Maine Kitchen: Seasonally Inspired Recipes* will sign copies of her book at Cotton, 75 Arms St., Manchester, 622-5488, cottonfood.com, on Fri., Dec. 16, from 5 to 9 p.m. A special menu featuring dishes from her book will be available along with the regular menu. All proceeds will benefit the Kid's Café.

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DRINK

Red, white and green A lot of wine, a little cash

This week we got a little adventurous and sought out some petite sirah, a hearty, spicy, tannic red varietal that actually is also called “durif,” a much less appetizing sounding name than “petite sirah.”

Petite sirah, though originally from France, is now a New World varietal and thrives in hot climates. Here in the U.S. you’ll see it planted alongside zinfandel and also blended with it. Petite sirah is mostly used in blending to give zinfandel, pinot noir or syrah a bit of backbone. In most New Hampshire state stores it can be tough to find a bottle of petite sirah. Many times a bottle can be found in the red “varietal” aisle, but rest assured petite sirah is available in state stores and at many of the independent wine merchants.

First we tried a **2009 Michael David Petite Petit** from Lodi, Calif. (\$18.99; we bought on sale for \$16.99). Admittedly we’re already cheating a bit. The Michael David is actually only 85 percent petite sirah; the other 15 percent is petit verdot, but we really wanted to try this bottle so there you go. The color of this wine is blackberry jam or, as one of the tasters called it, bing cherry black. For nose we got plum, cherries and spice. Flavors of this wine followed its nose, plum and pruny, but also tasted of dried fruit and spice and ended with some mouth-puckering tannins. We



guessed that the petit verdot here muted some of the tannins that are usually present with petite sirah. This wine would go great with adventurous Christmas dishes of venison, flank steak, rack of lamb, rabbit or any

other gamy meat (boar, anyone?).

Our other petite sirah is a **2007 Concannon Conservancy Petite Sirah** from Livermore Valley (\$11.99; we bought on sale for \$9.99). Livermore Valley, like Lodi, is a hot growing region in the central valleys of California. In Livermore’s case, this agricultural region is east of the San Francisco Bay area, south of Sacramento and north of San Jose. The Concannon is darker than the Petite Petit, verging on the black. For nose we got sour cherry and a bit of funk. This is a very dry, mouth-puckering red wine — and really designed as such. Petite sirah is known as tannic and this wine delivers with a bit of pruny and plum fruit. Though on the rustic side, this bottle is perfect for a cold evening with some big flavors this winter.

Each week in “Red, White & Green,” two wine-lovers look at red and white wines, none over \$20 (and most under \$15), in an attempt to find some great bottles for good prices. All prices are according to the state liquor store (nh.liquor.state.nh.us) unless otherwise stated.

Drink Listings Breweries/Distilleries

- **ANHEUSER-BUSCH** 221 DW Hwy, Merrimack. Complimentary tours include a visit to the Clydesdale Hamlet, home of the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales. Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 595-1202.
- **ELM CITY BREWING COMPANY** Colony Mill Marketplace, 222 West St., Keene, 355-3335, www.elmcitybrewing.com. Restaurant, brewery and pub, open Mon.-Thurs., 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to midnight; Sunday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **THE FLYING GOOSE BREW PUB & GRILLE** 40 Andover Road in New London, 526-6899, flyinggoose.com.
- **INCREDIBREW/ GRAPE TIME WINERY**, 112 DW Highway, Nashua, 891-2477, grape-timewinery.com (call for class schedule, tastings)
- **ITALIAN OASIS RESTAURANT & BREWERY** 106 Main St. in Littleton, 444-6695.
- **MARTHA’S EXCHANGE RESTAURANT & BREWING COMPANY** 185 Main St. in Nashua, 883-8781, marthas-exchange.com.
- **MILLY’S TAVERN** 500 Commercial St. in Manchester, 625-4444, millystavern.com.
- **MOAT MOUNTAIN SMOKE HOUSE & BREWING COMPANY** 3378 White Mountain Highway, North Conway, 356-6381, moatmountain.com.
- **THE PORTSMOUTH BREWERY** 56 Market St., Portsmouth,

www.portsmouthbrewery.com, 603-431-1115. Free tours Thurs., Fri., & Sat. at 3 p.m.

- **REDHOOK BREWERY** 35 Corporate Drive, Pease Tradeport, Portsmouth, www.redhook.com, produces Redhook ales and features the Cataqua Public House offering brews and a pub menu. Tours offered Monday and Tuesday at 2 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday at noon, 1, 3 and 4 p.m.; Friday and Saturday every hour on the hour from noon to 4 p.m.; Sunday every hour on the hour from 1 to 4 p.m.
- **SEVEN BARREL BREWERY** 5 Airport Road in West Lebanon, 298-5566.
- **SMUTTYNOSE** 225 Heritage Ave., Portsmouth, smuttynose.com, 436-4026. Free tours to the public Friday at 3 p.m. and Saturday at 11 a.m.
- **TUCKERMAN BREWING COMPANY** 64 Hobbs St., Conway, 447-5400, www.tuckermanbrewing.com, offers tours every Saturday at 3 p.m.
- **WHITE BIRCH BREWING** 1339 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 244-8593, www.whitebirchbrewing.com. Open daily.
- **WOODSTOCK INN BREWERY** 135 Main St., North Woodstock, 745-3951, woodstockin-brewery.com.

Cider

- **CROOKED TREE CIDER**, 35 Stickney Road, Whitefield, 837-9174, crookedtreecider.com
- **FARNUM HILL CIDERS** 98

Poverty Lane, Lebanon, 448-1511, www.farnumhillciders.com

- **SILVER MOUNTAIN CIDERS**, Lempster, 477-2026, silvermountainciders.com (open Thurs.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and by appointment)

Special wine tastings

- **SPARKLING WINE TASTING** Zorvino Vineyards, 226 Main St., Sandown, 887-8463, zorvino.com, will host its 5th annual Sparkling Wine Tasting on Thurs., Dec. 8, at 6:30 p.m., at which guests will be able to sample six sparkling wines from around the world paired with three appetizers.
- **WINE FLIGHT** Zampa, 8 Exeter Road, Epping, 679-8772, zampa.com, will host “Bubbles, Tiny Bubbles,” its champagne and sparkling wine flight night, during dinner on Thurs., Dec. 15.
- **WINERY OPEN HOUSE** Hermit Woods Winery, 56 Taylor Road, Sanbornton, 253-7968, hermitwoods.com, will hold its last open house of 2011 on Sunday, Dec. 18, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **WINTER WINE SPECTACULAR**, a fundraiser for Easter Seals NH, will be held Thurs., Jan. 26, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Radisson in downtown Manchester. Sample hundreds of wines and enjoy eats from local restaurants. Tickets to the grand tasting cost \$65 per person. Tickets to the grand tasting plus the Bellman’s Cellar Select room (which features higher end wines and runs from 6 to 8 p.m.) cost \$125 per person. See nh.easterseals.com for tickets.

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Regular Price \$12.99
SAVE \$4.00
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Yellow Tail Moscato

Displays lifted aromas of freshly crushed grapes, peach and passionfruit. This lightly frizzante wine tingles in your mouth with lively tropical fruit and underlying spiciness.

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Castle Rock Pinot Noir, Mendocino County

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NHSLC Code# 37678
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POP CULTURE

**MUSIC, BOOKS,
GAMES, COMICS,
MOVIES, DVDS,
TV AND MORE**

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Includes listings for lectures, author events, book clubs, writers' workshops and other literary events. To let us know about your book or event, e-mail Lisa Parsons at lparkers@hippopress.com. To get your author events, library events and more listed, send information to listings@hippopress.com.

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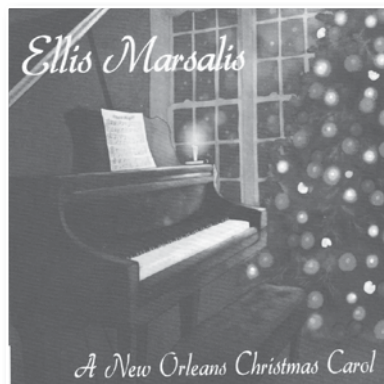


• *My Week With Marilyn Monroe*, **B**

POP CULTURE:

CDS

Ellis Marsalis, *A New Orleans Christmas Carol*
Elm Records, Oct. 11



This lonely, pensive little holiday collection finds 77-year-old Junior playing up the empty-piano-bar angle in its most serious vein, which is to say it's not the most fun you'll ever have with a record, but it's certainly something to slow down the holiday enough to bask in it a little. Marsalis seems on a mission to evoke a solitary Schroeder from *A Charlie Brown Christmas* accompanied almost exclusively by brushed drums, whether on the tried-and-true-mawkish "O Tannenbaum" or an even more obvious "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" — it's a boy and his piano, for the moment unchained from his confines at the Snug Harbor Bistro, enjoying his own thoughts while singer Cynthia Liggins Thomas coozies her low soprano up to the baby grand for "A Child is Born." If you're like me, you'll enjoy that the speedier songs, like "Sleigh Ride," are as barely-there as the rest of them. **A-**
—Eric W. Saeger

Emperor X, *Western Teleport*
Bar None Records, Oct. 11



Like a doppelganger stalking Merriweather Post Pavillion from the shadows, former science teacher Chad Metheny offers organic alt-rock fractals made not of ones and zeroes but real heart, real adventurous experience (he's spoken in tongues at a Pentecostal church and done mercurial gigs with anarcho-cyclist flash mobs while slumming in L.A.) and real instruments ("Erica western Teleport" kicks off the record with a zither-sounding guitar native to Lindsay Buckingham). This is another encouraging example of honest, pretty, hypnotizing indie rock that doesn't simply roll with the times but actually deserves to be heard — think Here We Go Magic, Winston Giles and such; even Metheny's emo-geek voice eventually flowers into something ethereal before your ears by the time you get four or so songs in. You could say it's like Death Cab's black-sheep brother, also, Metheny's concrete-hardened soul trying to find beauty in a post-Goldman Sachs-destroyed world and actually succeeding. **A** —Eric W. Saeger



Playlist

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• New albums are coming out next week, for that every-Tuesday ritual that drives one more nail into the coffin of American culture every single frickin... wait a minute, it's Christmas, so I have joy in my heart. Walk with me now, in joy, as we look at the new items you can buy from the big record companies. Say, do you even know how big record companies make their money nowadays? Do they make any money in the first place is probably more to the point, but how could they fail with ties to NFL football? You ever see those things on football games, like after the part that goes "The upcoming kickoff will be brought to you by Lexus, because who doesn't buy their loved ones brand new Lexuses every holiday, don't be a loser," where there's some random emo band that sounds no different from any other emo band, but instead these lucky — I don't know, what are they, Disney-built androids? — dudes are singing over a montage of football long-bombs and badass cleanings-of-clock, and there's a caption underneath that's all MTV-like, with the band name and the album title and all that? I mean, what is that anyway? And wouldn't a football dad, like, kill himself if his son joined an emo band? But there's the rub, isn't it, because people who love football nowadays aren't football dads, they're office workers who are all in "fantasy leagues," which is simply *Dungeons & Dragons*, but with overpaid dingbats dropping easy catches all over the place. Right? So since emo is the preferred sound of *D&D* geeks, it should thus now logically be recognized as the official music of professional football, right? Life really does have a beautiful simplicity, you're welcome.

• Now that that's settled, and I'm in a festive mood, let's just try to find the good in next week's stuff. Let's do it together, holding hands and walking in the snow. Stay positive no matter what we see... oh look, there's a new movie coming out, called *The Adventures of Tintin*, and there is of course a **soundtrack**! Listen to the pretty samples, first some slow goofy oboe music that totally says "let's laugh at the fat guy," and then some Harry Potter-sounding music, etc. Who did this wonderful music? I wonder if it is some new guy who could use a break... oops, ha ha, no, it's John Williams, of course, channeling Tchaikovsky as usual, for money, while thousands of brilliant new composers starve.

• But that's OK! Look at these awesome new albums you'll be able to buy next week: it's the first **Crosby Stills & Nash** album on 24k gold! No, that's not a hot new "indie" band, they're old. Yes, you're probably right, maybe that old band got tired of buying Lexuses for all their friends for Christmas and they just melted some of their gold down to make vanity albums, maybe to use as pretty decorations for the holiday. Same thing with that old **Gary Wright** *Dream Weaver* album, it's in gold too, look! And a **Josh Ritter** live album, who's he again, and look, it's **Smokey Robinson's** *The Solo Albums Volume 6*! Look at all these new albums! It's so... so... immaculately conceived, you know?

—Eric W. Saeger

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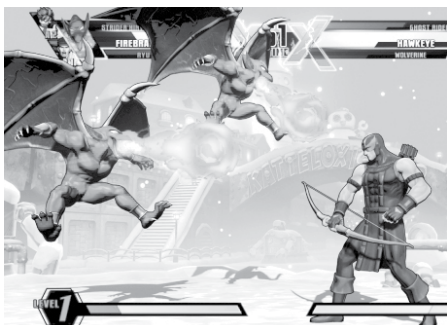
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POP CULTURE:

GAMES



Ultimate Marvel vs. Capcom 3, (PS3/360) Capcom, Rated T

For the sake of all that is good, please heed the seizure warning at the beginning of *Ultimate Marvel vs. Capcom 3*.

"Why should you spend \$40 on this glorified DLC pack?" you might scoff. Well, maybe you shouldn't. Maybe nine months ago you had your fill of revisiting three-on-three team-based crazily-paced fighting. And if that is the case, if the long-awaited follow-up to the arcade hit *MvC2* sated your 60+ hit combo thirst, then stop. Stay happy with what you've got.

In fairness: *Ultimate MvC3* brings a bit more than your average add-on. Twelve new characters from the Capcom game and Marvel comic library join the fray, and they represent some enjoyable selections from the canon. Fan favorites Ghost Rider and Strider Hiryu appear alongside deep cuts like Rocket Raccoon and Firebrand (an enemy from Ghosts 'n Goblins). Many of the new characters lean heavily on new gameplay mechanics such as lawyer Phoenix Wright's evidence-gathering or the ability of Frank West to power up through the match.

In addition to the modestly expanded

roster of characters, all 50 contenders now have six different color options. The vast majority of returning fighters have received balance tweaks ranging from health buffs to a handful of brand new moves. Most effects of the balance tweaks will go unnoticed by the broader player base as they tend toward the deep and fiddly. The HUD and menu screens have also seen a needless but not unwelcome design overhaul. Eight new stages have been added as well as some aesthetic changes to existing character stages. A post-release free DLC is set to introduce a new Heroes vs. Heralds game mode that allows teams to augment their character by selecting a trio of ability cards.

For the button-mashing Chun-Li kicking Magneto majority of us this is a largely unnecessary cash grab. For the serious fight enthusiasts it's a tough sell as *MvC3* has been relatively side-lined on the hardcore scene. This edition does little to amend the competitive circuit's chief gripe, that the "X-Factor" damage boost/health regeneration plays too unbalancing a role in victory. Honestly, I would have dropped \$30 buying half of the new fighters anyway were they offered as DLC. But that is a poor excuse. This could easily have been a downloadable upgrade to an exciting and enjoyable game and probably should have been.

Ultimate Marvel Vs. Capcom 3 is still a blast to play with the right crowd and the poor release strategy doesn't detract from enjoyable core; I just hope you were able to sell your old edition before hand. **B**

— Glenn Given

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BOOKS

BOOK & LECTURE LISTINGS

Libraries

- **Amherst Town Library**
14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288, amherst.lib.nh.us
- **Bedford Public Library**
3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford 472-3023, bedford.lib.nh.us
- **Concord Public Library**
45 Green St., 225-8670, www.concordpubliclibrary.net
- **Derry Public Library**
64 E. Broadway, Derry, 432-6140, derry.lib.nh.us
- **Goffstown Public Library**
2 High St., Goffstown, 497-2102, goffstown.lib.nh.us
- **Hollis Social Library**
2 Monument Sq., Hollis, 465-7721, hollis.nh.us
- **Hooksett Public Library**
1701B Hooksett Rd., Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksetlibrary.org
- **Manchester City Library**
405 Pine St. (main branch) and 76 N. Main St. (West branch), 624-6550, manchester.lib.nh.us
- **Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum**
18 Highlawn Road, Warner, 456-2600, indianmuseum.org
- **Nashua Public Library**
2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610, nashualibrary.org
- **Rodgers Memorial Library**
194 Derry Road, Hudson, 886-6030, rodgerslibrary.org
- **Tucker Free Library**
31 Western Ave., Henniker, 428-3471, tuckerfreelibrary.org
- **Wadleigh Memorial Library**
49 Nashua St., Milford, 673-2408, wadleigh.lib.nh.us

- **Wilton Public Library**
7 Forest Road, Wilton, 654-2581, wiltonlibrarynh.org

Bookstores

- **Barnes & Noble**
1741 South Willow St., Manchester, 668-5557; 235 DW Hwy, Nashua, 888-5961; bn.com
- **Double Midnight Comics & Collectibles**
245 Maple St., Manchester, 669-9636, dmcomics.com
- **Gibson's Bookstore**
27 South Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com
- **MainStreet Bookends**
16 E. Main St., Warner, 456-2700, mainstreetbookends.com
- **River Run Books**
20 Congress St., Portsmouth, 431-2100, riverrunbookstore.com
- **Toadstool Bookshop**
586 Nashua St., Milford, 673-1734, toadbooks.com.

Other

- **Manchester Historic Association**
200 Bedford St., 622-7531, manchesterhistoric.org
- **New Hampshire Humanities Council**
19 Pillsbury St., Concord, 224-4071, www.nhnhc.org
- **New Hampshire State Library**
20 Park St., Concord, www.nh.gov/nhsl
- **New Hampshire Writers' Project**
SNHU, 2521 N. River Rd.,

Manchester, 314-7980, nhwritersproject.org

- **Rivier College**
420 Main St., Nashua, 888-1311, rivier.edu.
- **UNH Manchester**
400 Commercial St., Manchester, 641-4101, unhm.unh.edu

Author events

- **BRUCE VALLEY** will talk about his book *Seahawk: Confessions of an Old Hockey Goalie* on Sat., Dec. 10, at 2 p.m. at the Milford Toadstool Bookshop.
- **LEAF SELIGMAN** will talk about her book *Opening the Window: Sabbath Meditations* on Sat., Dec. 10, at 11 a.m. at the Peterborough Toadstool Bookshop.
- **MARY KATHRYN MACKLIN** will talk about her book *Women Fit at Fifty: A Guide for Living Long*, on Sat., Dec. 17, at 2 p.m. at Barnes & Noble in Manchester.
- **FRITZ WETHERBEE** will talk about his new book, *New Hampshire Rocks*, on Sat., Dec. 17, at 2 p.m. at the Milford Toadstool Bookshop, and on Sun., Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Peterborough Toadstool Bookshop.
- **HENRY LOUIS GATES JR.** will talk about his new book *Life Upon These Shores: Looking at African American History* on Tues., Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. at The Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St., Portsmouth, as part of the Writers in the Loft series. Tickets to the event cost \$64 and include a reserved seat, book, bar beverage, the author presentation, Q&A and book-signing meet & greet. Tickets are available at the Music Hall box office, 436-2400 or

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• **STEVEN R. CLOSS** will talk about his book *Willing Sacrifice: Granite State Valor during the American Civil War 1861-1865* on Tues., Jan. 31, at 7 p.m. in the Winchell Room of Manchester City Library. He'll talk about the contributions of the 2,000+ soldiers from NH who died in combat during the Civil War, and in particular the stories of the 157 soldiers from Manchester.

• **NH AUTHORS SERIES 2011-2012** at UNH in Durham takes place Sundays at 2 p.m. in the 5th-floor courtyard reading room of Dimond Library. Author interviews are followed by a Q&A session with the audience. Jan. 29: James Patrick Kelly, whose novel *Burn* won a 2007 Nebula Award and who has also won two Hugo awards. April 22: Rebecca Rule, regional storyteller and author of *Headin' for the Rhubarb!* *A New Hampshire Dictionary* (well, kinda). Interviews are recorded for broadcast on NHPTV and for streaming online at www.nhptv.org/authors. The series is free and open to the public but seating is limited; to reserve a seat, visit www.library.unh.edu/friends or call 862-1540.

• **LOCAL AUTHORS NIGHT** on Thurs., Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. in the Image Gallery at Nashua Public Library. Spend an evening chatting with local authors and getting their advice on what it would take to get your own book published. Light refreshments will be served. Authors who want to participate should sign up at www.tinyurl.com/npldiscussion by Jan. 31. Snow date is Feb. 29.

• **ERIK LARSON** will talk about his recent New York Times bestseller *In the Garden of Beasts* on Tues., May 8, at 7:30 p.m. at The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, as part of the Writers on a New England Stage series. Tickets to the event cost \$13 and are available at the box office, 436-2400 or www.themusichall.org. Copies of the book can be purchased in advance at the Music Hall box office. The producers ask patrons to support this series by purchasing their books through The Music Hall.

Lectures and discussions

• **OVERVIEW OF CONTEMPORARY MEXICO** presented by Daniel Hernandez Joseph, consul general of Mexico in Boston, on Thurs., Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. in the Gregg Hall Auditorium at Nashua Community College, 505 Amherst St., Nashua, free and open to the public. Call 578-8900 ext. 1440 or e-mail sbashalany@ccsnh.edu.

• **DEGREES OF CHANGE** is a Science Café series of discussion about climate change taking place at 900 Degrees Neapolitan Pizzeria, 50 Dow St., Manchester. The public is encouraged to give input, ask questions and join the discussions. The event is free and open to the public and food will be available for purchase; 900 Degrees will be serving from their regular menu throughout the event. Register to attend by calling the SEE Science Center at 669-0400 or visiting www.see-sciencecenter.org. The final date in this Science Café series is scheduled for Dec. 19 and will feature Ken Colburn.

• **EVEREST!** multimedia presentation by Craig Johnson about his ascent of the North Ridge of Mt. Everest and his expeditions to Kilimanjaro, Denali and Cho Oyu, on

In the spotlight



Poetry Slam champ

Slam poet "Mighty" Mike McGee will make his first appearance at Milly's Tavern, 500 N. Commercial St., Manchester, during Slam Free or Die on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 8 p.m. (sign-ups begin at 8 p.m.). McGee has toured internationally with both his poetry and comedic acts. He won the Individual World Poetry Slam Championship in 2006. Slam Free or Die will also hold a qualifying open slam that evening, during which 10 local poets will compete for a chance to perform with the Slam Free or Die 2012 National Slam Poetry Team. Tickets cost \$3 at the door. Call 570-7533 or e-mail SlamFreeorDie@gmail.com for information.

Thurs., Jan. 5, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library (in the library's theater). Free and open to the public.

• **SHOAH (HOLOCAUST) SEMINAR** for adults begins Jan. 12 at Congregation Betenu in Amherst. There will be 10 weekly meetings, on Thursdays, between 7 and 8:30 p.m. Each session will stand alone, and the public is invited to come to the whole series or just individual sessions of interest. No pre-registration is needed, but RSVP is appreciated. The seminar will be led by Raphael Colb, an English teacher at Hebrew University. Contact Rahel at 554-1459 or betenu@nii.net for info or to RSVP.

• **TRAVEL TO CHINA: FROM PREPARATION TO IMMERSION** presented by photographer and tour operator Richard Ferland on Thurs., Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library (in the library's theater). The talk, illustrated with slides, will cover topics from planning a trip to how to mingle with the locals. Free and open to the public.

• **STONE WALLS OF NEW ENGLAND** presented by actor, author and NHPR producer Kevin Gardner on Thurs., Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library (in the library's theater). Gardner explores the cultural and historical significance of New England's stone walls as he constructs a model wall using small stones on a table. Free and open to the public.

• **WILD TURKEYS** discussion of the natural history, habits and habitats of the eastern wild turkey, presented by Mark Ellingwood of NH Fish and Game on Thurs., Feb. 2, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library (in the library's theater). Free and open to the public, but register at tinyurl.com/npllectures.

• **NH TO ARGENTINA BY MOTORCYCLE** presented by Ben Slavin, who rode from his Hooksett home to the world's southernmost city, Ushuaia, Argentina, on Thurs., Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library (in the library's theater). Free and open to the public. See Slavin's blog at www.afewmoremiles.com.

• **THE 2012 FRAUD: MISREADING THE MAYA AND THEIR CALENDARS** presented by R.P. Hale on Thurs., Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. at Nashua Public Library (in the library's theater). Free and open to the public.

Book discussions

• **AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY** Friday Afternoon Book Club meets on the second Friday of the month at the library. Call Beth Blodgett at 673-2506 for info. Visitors and/

BOOKS

or new members always welcome (please call in advance). Call Beth Blodgett at 673-2506 for info.

• **ANIME CLUB** at Manchester City Library for grades 6-12 meets on some Thursdays at 4 p.m. This is an informal club where fans can gather to play cards, watch movies, discuss their favorite characters, and draw. Meetings are scheduled for Dec. 15, Jan. 19, and Feb. 16 in the Winchell Room.

• **ANIME & MANGA CLUB** is forming at Rodgers Memorial Library in Hudson and seeks members to join. Meetings will involve book discussions, anime viewing, and workshops. Visit www.rodgers-library.org or call 886-6030.

• **BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY** book discussion group focuses on current literature on Buddhist topics, meets the second Monday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Anyone with an interest in Buddhist philosophy is invited to join: www.meetup.com/Manchester-Buddhism-Sangha.

• **CANDIA SMYTH PUBLIC LIBRARY** book discussion group meets for friendly one-hour discussion once a month. The library is at 55 High St., Candia, 483-8245, www.smythpl.org.

• **CLASSICS CROWD** at Milford Toadstool Bookshop reads 19th-century British classics and meets every other month to discuss books voted on by consensus. New members always welcome.

• **HOLLIS SOCIAL LIBRARY** Tuesday morning book group meets the third Tues. of every month at 9:30 a.m. Meet new friends and discuss great books. This book group is sponsored by the library. No sign-up required. Call or visit www.hollis.nh.us/library for the book selection of the month.

• **MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY** evening book discussion group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Hunt Room. Jan. 12: *Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague*, by Geraldine Brooks.

• **MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY** Brown Bag Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of the month from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in the Hunt Room. Bring a bag lunch and plan on an enjoyable time. Dec. 27: *A Year in Provence*, by Peter Mayle.

• **MERRIMACK PUBLIC LIBRARY** hosts a book discussion group at 7 p.m. on the third Wed. of each month from Sept. through June. These programs are free and open to the public, no registration required. Extra copies of each book are usually available during the

POP CULTURE:

month before its scheduled discussion date.

- **PEMBROKE TOWN LIBRARY** book discussion group meets on the second Wed. of each month at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 14: *Little Bee*, by Chris Cleave.
- **RODGERS LIBRARY** in Hudson afternoon book discussion group meets on the third Tues. of the month. Books are available at the library; for more info or to add your name to the group mailing list, call 886-6030, e-mail askus@rogerslibrary.org or visit www.rogerslibrary.org.
- **SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY** discussion group meets at 7 p.m. second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Toadstool Bookshop in Milford. Welcomes older teens and adults to share the books they've recently read.
- **TEEN GALLEY GROUP** at Milford Toadstool Bookshop meets monthly. The group will select free books, many in advance of publication, and review them the following month. Meetings are usually held on the fourth Thursday of the month. Call Sarah Brodin at the store and sign up to reserve a spot.

Poetry

- **POETRY SOCIETY OF NH** meets on the third Wed. of each month at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore for a poetry reading followed by an open mike hosted by Don Kimball. All are welcome; come to listen or to read. See poetrysocietyofnewhampshire.org or call 332-0732.
- **HYLA BROOK READING SERIES** is held at the BeanTowne Coffee House & Café at 201 Route 111 in Hampstead (beantownecoffee.com) in winter. Free and open to the public. An open mike follows readings. For info, e-mail Robert

Crawford at bobik9@aol.com.

- **HYLA BROOK POETS WORKSHOPS** meet on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Coffee Factory in Derry. For info, contact Robert Crawford at bobik9@aol.com.
- **SLAM FREE OR DIE** at Milly's Tavern, 500 Commercial St., Manchester, 858-3286, includes a poetry open-mike session. Doors open and signups start at 7 p.m., open mike begins around 8 p.m., with featured poets and slams following the open mike. \$3 cover charge. E-mail SlamFreeorDie@gmail.com or call 858-3286. On Thurs., Dec. 15, two-time National Poetry Slam champion "Mighty" Mike McGee will perform (www.mikemcgee.net).
- **POETS JAM FACTORY** Jam your poetry to live music every Wed. 7:30-10 p.m. at Raxx Billiards, 1211 Elm St., Manchester, ages 18+.
- **OPEN MIKE POETRY NIGHT** is held monthly at Water Street Bookstore in Exeter, free and open to the public.

Writers' groups

- **NHWP BOOK CLUB FOR WRITERS** is a chance for writers to get together four times a year for informal discussions of classic and contemporary literature from a writers' perspective, at various locations around the state. See nhwritersproject.org for meetings in the Upper Valley, Portsmouth and other sites.
- **THE BLANK PAGE** writers' group for all levels meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 in the third-floor conference room at Goffstown Public Library. All are welcome. Call 497-2102 for details.
- **CHRISTIAN WRITERS GUILD** has a Merrimack Valley

Word Weavers club that meets the 2nd Mon. of each month from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Bonhoeffer's Café & Espresso, 8 Franklin St., Nashua. First-time participants are encouraged to attend an orientation class at 6 p.m. For info, contact Clarice James at 578-1860 or wordweaversnashuanh@comcast.net. See www.christianwritersguild.com/word-weavers.

• **CONCORD WRITERS' GROUP** meets first and third Saturdays at 10 a.m. in the Shakespeare Room of the Concord Public Library. Open to writers of all levels and genres. For more info contact Chris at c.swede@juno.com.

• **HUDSON WRITERS' GROUP** invites beginning and experienced writers to share their work and give feedback to others. This group meets the first Monday of each month 6:30-8:45 p.m. at Rodgers Memorial Library in Hudson. Call 886-6030 for info.

• **THE WRITER'S BLOCK** group of aspiring writers meets every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at Hollis Social Library. Call 465-7728 after 5 p.m. for info.

• **WRITERS' NIGHT OUT** is hosted by NH Writers Project on the first Monday of each month. Seacoast: Common Man, 96 State St., Portsmouth. Central region: The Barley House, 132 N. Main St., Concord. Upper Valley: Salt Hill Pub, 2 S. Park St., Lebanon. No need to RSVP; just stop by to connect with other writers.

• **WRITERS UNITED** meets each Friday evening at the Milford Toadstool. Area authors of all genres are invited to share, critique and explore the craft of writing. Space is limited; for details call Tammy at the bookshop or e-mail tammyatoadstool@aol.com.

BOOKS

Bookish Delight

In a ripoff (imitation! flattery!) of a segment on the Pop Culture Happy Hour podcast from NPR (look for it on iTunes or find it via its host's blog at www.npr.org/blogs/monkeysee), I tip my hat to *What's Making Me Happy This Week* in the world of words, hoping readers will pick up on some recommendations and be inspired to share with friends their own Happy-Making things.

The Book of (Holiday) Awesome, by Neil Pasricha (2011, Putnam, 179 pages) is a small hardcover whose whole point is to bring attention to what makes us happy. It's a holiday-themed sibling to Pasricha's *The Book of Awesome* (2010) and *The Book of (Even More) Awesome* (April 2011). There's also The App of Awesome and a website, www.1000awesomethings.com. Although the cover design looks Christmasy, with the gold and the red and green, only the first 42 percent of the book is about Christmas; after that there's Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Year's and a chronological march through Valentine's Day, Easter, Mother's Day etc. My view of Awesomeness doesn't align perfectly with Pasricha's, but I do feel happy when I see "Finally finding the start of this stupid roll of tape" on the list. Also "When the Christmas tree gives the only light in the room" and "When you can actually hear it snowing." Leave this one on the table for your visiting relatives to thumb



through. I think it's important to know that all this Awesome is not just sap or cheap cheeriness. Pasricha is a guy who's been through some serious darkness and earned every one of the small pleasures he points out. Check out his TED video online.

Next up is *A Bad Kitty Christmas*, by Nick Bruel (2011, Roaring Brook Press). I have loved Bad Kitty ever since he got a bath. This new picture book is not quite as endearing as that one (which wasn't a picture book), but so what, the bar's too high. This one, like the other Bad Kitty picture books, (1) rhymes, which is always questionable, and (2) has an alphabet theme running through it, which seems unnecessary, but it's OK because these devices transport us through the story, and (3) most importantly, the story is a good one and it's Christmas-spirity in the end. The combination of generosity of spirit and complete self-interest, and how they can survive each other, makes *Bad Kitty Christmas* a prickly heartwarming treat.

—Lisa Parsons

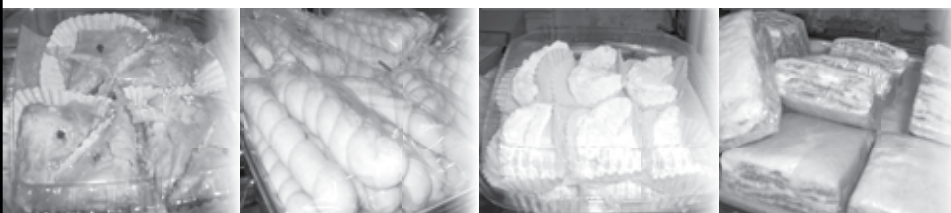
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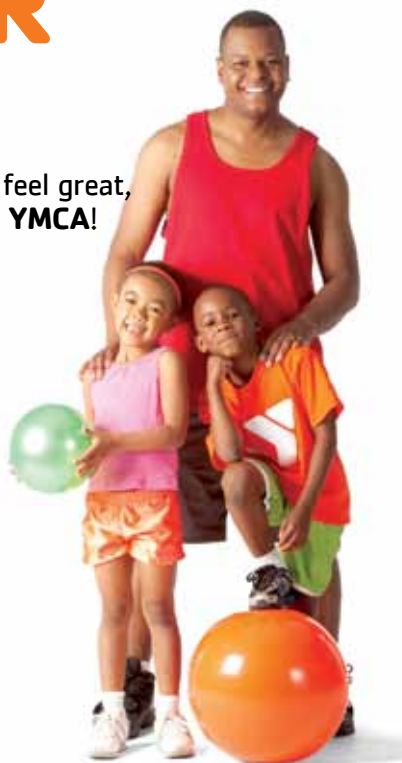


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The Descendants

The Descendants (R)

George Clooney is a man dealing with the imminent loss of his wife as well as an assortment of other family issues in *The Descendants*, another wonderfully messy downbeat comedy-drama from Alexander Payne.

The movie's opening shot gives us the only look we have at a conscious and lively Elizabeth King (Patricia Hastie). She is on the water (in a power boat, we later learn), wind in her hair, looking excited. That was 20 some days ago. Now, she is in a coma after a boating accident and, the doctors tell her husband Matt (Clooney), not going to recover. Her situation will deteriorate, the doctor tells Matt, it's time to think about taking her off the machines (as her living will dictates they must) and telling people to come in and say goodbye.

Matt, who as he tells us in narration is the backup parent to his two daughters, is overwhelmed enough by caring for the 10-year-old Scottie (Amara Miller). Hoping for some help — with Scottie and maybe with the task of bringing

Elizabeth's life to a close — he goes to get his 17-year-old daughter Alexandra (Shailene Woodley) from boarding school on the big island of Hawaii to bring her back to the family home on another island. She is, we figure out, a bit of a wild child. When he picks her up she's drunk and when she wakes the next morning, she's angry. She's been doing well at school but hasn't received any recognition for it from her parents and she's still steaming from a fight she had with her mother.

The trailers give it away but SPOILER ALERT for those who want no additional plot knowledge: the fight was over an affair. Alexandra saw her mother with another man and is, as a result, disgusted with both her parents — her mother for unfaithfulness and her father for general inattentiveness.

Now Matt is a man mourning the impending loss of a woman he maybe didn't know. He learns from her friends that she was in love with this other guy, a man who he learns is a real estate agent named Brian Speer (Matthew Lillard), and perhaps planning to divorce Matt. I was planning to divorce you one day too, Matt tells her motionless body.

Anger and confusion over this part of Elizabeth's life have the strange effect of bringing Alexandra and Matt together. She eggs him on in his search for Brian, joined most of the time by Sid (Nick Krause), a doofusy-seeming friend of Alexandra who has surprising depths. In between telling Elizabeth's family and friends that the end is here, Matt and Alexandra continue their farcical search.

All of this is set against the backdrop of a land deal. Matt's family descends from a missionary and his wife, a Hawaiian princess. In addition to generations of wealth (which Matt doesn't spend — a friction point in his marriage as he is determined only to live off his earnings as a lawyer), Matt and his cousins are the owners of a huge tract of undeveloped land. Matt is the head of the trust but is forced by a change in the law to sell the land (thus enriching his many cousins). It seems everyone he runs into has an opinion about the land — and most people not related to him don't want him to sell.

Alexander Payne does imperfection brilliantly. Not just the overheated nuttiness you see in *Election* and *Sideways* but also the loving but flawed characters in movies like *About Schmidt*. Here we get a family that outwardly appears to be a solid, enviable family — two nice daughters, a successful lawyer husband with family money, an attractive and adventure-seeking wife. But it turns out each of these characters has her (and in Matt's case, his) own inner turmoil to deal with. In many ways, each is an unknown to the others. Elizabeth and Matt had slipped apart in recent years and we come to suspect that the affair wasn't the only thing pulling them apart. Matt seems like a man who could become set in his ways without examining why he always takes the side that he does.

And Matt admits that he hasn't done a lot of the parenting, having left it to Elizabeth. Now he seems bewildered by his own children — Scottie going through a little pre-adolescent nuttiness made nuttier by the situation with her mother and Alexandra an angry, opinionated but also surprisingly thoughtful girl. The scatteredness of the kids makes their characters feel even more real. Ten-year-olds can be kind of nuts — just starting to leave bits of childhood behind but still not the teens they're a few years away from becoming. And Alexandra seems like a good example of the hot-and-cold nature of teenagerhood. She is angry at and maybe disappointed with her father but also deeply loyal to him just as she misses her mother while still being deeply mad at her. The girls are never one note and neither is Matt's reaction to them. Clooney does a good job of giving us a man just barely keeping from sinking under all the turmoil he's dealing with. He nails this kind of role — partly comic, partly put-upon — in a way that he doesn't quite succeed as much as some of his bigger action or political roles.

I'm sure nothing I've described here seems particularly funny but the movie does have its funny moments — not just dark, clever asides but truly laugh-out-loud moments. And, like many a Payne movie, *The Descendants* also has moments that are so simple but so heart-piercing that you're almost shocked at how affecting something so quiet can be.

The Hawaiian setting isn't just the source of beautiful scenery; it also gives the movie a kind of melancholy. So much beauty, so many problems. Life in Hawaii isn't one big vacation in paradise, Matt tells us at the beginning of the movie, showing us scenes of poverty on the island. Though Matt's world is

a part of the beauty of the region, it has the same sense of squandered promise and ignored problems internally that exists externally in Hawaii's slummier parts.

And I'm sure that sounds overwrought, but it isn't. Even when it's through narration, the movie delivers its message with nuance. *The Descendants* comes together remarkably well. It may not be your holiday feel-good movie, but it is a well-crafted, thoroughly enjoyable film. **A-**

Rated R for language including some sexual references. Directed by Alexander Payne with a screenplay by Nat Faxon & Jim Rash and Alexander Payne, The Descendants is an hour and 55 minutes long and distributed by Fox Searchlight Pictures.

My Week with Marilyn (R)

A young assistant on the film *The Prince and the Showgirl* describes his brief friendship with Marilyn Monroe in *My Week with Marilyn Monroe*, a movie based on a true (or, whatever) story.

Colin Clark (Eddie Redmayne) — the guy who wrote the memoir on which the movie is based — is the young, well-educated son of a wealthy and distinguished family. They do not entirely approve when he decides to run away and join the circus — his version of which is going to London to seek a job at Laurence Olivier's (Kenneth Branagh) production company. He hangs around the office until he is given the position as Olivier's assistant and as a go-fer on the upcoming movie (which will eventually be known as *The Prince and the Showgirl*) — a dazzling prospect as it stars Marilyn Monroe (Michelle Williams).

Pause for the hush that falls over

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My Week With Marilyn Monroe

the room and the wiping of drool from men's mouths.

This being the mid-1950s, Marilyn Monroe is the walking personification of sex. She is goddess-like in her appearance and she throws off a vibe that is bewitchingly seductive and brings out the protector in the men around her. Even if you don't know anything about her personal history, you can kind of guess that this combination of traits makes someone a flaming mess, not to mention a less than reliable person to work with. Olivier is at first dazzled by her — his wife, Vivian Leigh (Julia Ormond), tells Colin that Larry plans to seduce Marilyn (though she also asks him to discreetly let her know if it turns into something). But then work on the production begins. Even during the read-through, Marilyn proves to be a lot of effort. She requires constant direction and reassurance from her acting coach Paula Stasberg (Zoe Wanamaker). When shooting starts, she regularly shows up late and then flubs her lines so that shooting one scene takes forever, driving Olivier half nuts. Only the older actress Dame Sybil Thorndike (Judi Dench) really makes an effort to befriend her. And as fragile as she seems on the set, her off-set life is just as drama-filled. When she isn't being mobbed while walking down a street, she's fighting with her husband, Arthur Miller (Dougray Scott), or lost in a haze of pills and drink.

Somewhere in all of this, Colin finds himself thrown into her orbit on a couple of occasions. Though he genuinely likes — and even takes out for a night on the town — wardrobe girl Lucy (Emma Watson, playing a totally non-magical grown-up person — cheers to Emma!), he can't help being drawn to the light of Marilyn. Quickly, he finds that he has become her new plaything. She believes that, apart from the others on the movie set, he is on her side. Soon, they are spending sun-dappled afternoons together and Colin is lost in a fog of love for her.

How much this fog is Colin's romantic ideas about the deeply screwed up Monroe and how much is an actual affair the movie leaves a little vague. Colin sees her as this magical, larger-than-life being who for this brief moment needs him. While he does appear to have a few "let me take you away from all this" fantasies, he doesn't seem to aggressively pursue them. We are seeing a young man's puppy love, something that everyone around him knows is all Romance (capital R, in the gauzy sunlight and poetry sense) and very little serious emotion, particularly on Marilyn's part. One of Mar-

ilyn's handlers tells Colin he was madly in love with her for 10 days but eventually these things flame out for her.

I found myself wondering if I'd find more depth in this — a story that's as much about how a young man feels when he's in this kind of love as it is about the famous people that populate it — if I were a man. Specifically, if I were a man in his 60s or 70s with a living memory of Marilyn Monroe. As it is, I felt there was some barrier between me and my fully getting this movie. Williams' Monroe is both very well-constructed and very frustrating in that we get a good look at the constructed Marilyn Monroe character but very little in the way of a glimpse at the real person behind the icon. We're left with the '50s bombshell version of the Manic Pixie Dream Girl (search for it on AVClub.com). And, while I can appreciate that Williams' inhabiting of Monroe is very well done, I still found it kind of annoying. And, back to the original question of whether a man might view all of this differently, I can't help but wonder if my irritation at the character comes from a modern desire for her to just get it together already. The movie argues that Monroe is actually a brilliant movie actress hamstrung by her striking good looks. I kept wondering why we couldn't see any of that in her personality.

This describes my feelings about this movie over all. It is deeply watchable, frequently fascinating and occasionally quite annoying. But watchable! Williams is indeed fascinating, how she crafts the presence of Marilyn Monroe without giving an impersonation. Branagh is quite funny as a frustrated (on many levels) Olivier. And the movie makes an interesting point about Marilyn's abilities as a movie actress (not quite the more naturalistic actress we've become used to in the last 30 or 40 years but something more alive and genuine than had existed in the movie stars who had come before her) compared to Olivier's skills as a classical stage actor. They are both, in their own ways, masters of the medium but they can't seem to quite figure out how to use each other's skills for their own benefit. (Marilyn wants Olivier's cachet, Olivier wants Marilyn's popularity).

My Week with Marilyn is, like the legend at its center, maddening but intriguing. **B**

Rated R for some language. Directed by Simon Curtis and written by Adrian Hodges (from the book by Colin Clark), My Week with Marilyn is an hour and 39 minutes long and is distributed by The Weinstein Company.

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• **Martha Marcy May Marlene** (R,
2011) Thurs., Dec. 8, at 5:25 p.m.
• **Take Shelter** (R, 2011) Thurs.,
Dec. 8, at 2:05 & 7:40 p.m.
• **The Way** (PG-13, 2011) Thurs.,
Dec. 8, at 2, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Fri.,
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• **The Descendants** (R, 2011) Fri.,
Dec. 9, through Sun., Dec. 11, at 1,
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day of each month at 7 p.m. Film in
French with English subtitles.
• **A Christmas Tale** (2008) on Tues.,
Dec. 20, at 7 p.m.

MANCHESTER CITY
LIBRARY

405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-
6550, www.manchester.lib.nh.us
• **Pearl Harbor** (PG-13, 2001)
Wed., Dec. 7, at 1 p.m.
• **Thor** (PG-13, 2011) Tues., Dec.
13, at 6 p.m. and Wed., Dec. 14, at
1 p.m.

WEST BRANCH
COMMUNITY LIBRARY

76 N. Main St., Manchester, 624-
6560, www.manchester.lib.nh.us
• **Spy Kids 4** (PG, 2011) Fri., Dec.
9, at 3 p.m.

CONCORD PUBLIC
LIBRARY

45 Green St., Concord, 230-3682,
www.concordpubliclibrary.net
• **White Christmas** (1954) Thurs.,
Dec. 15, at 6:30 p.m.

NHTI

Sweeney Auditorium, 31 College
Drive, Concord, 271-7185, www.
nhti.edu
• **A Christmas Story** (PG, 1983)
Fri., Dec. 9, at 7 p.m.

NASHUA PUBLIC
LIBRARY

NPL Theater, 2 Court St., Nashua,
589-4600, www.nashualibrary.org.
Call 589-4646 for the library's film
line, a schedule of upcoming mov-
ies. Films subject to change. Seat-
ing is limited. Food and drink are
not permitted in the theater.

• **Another Earth** (PG-13, 2011)

Tues., Dec. 13, at 7 p.m.

POLLARD MEMORIAL
LIBRARY

401 Merrimack St., Lowell, Mass.,
978-970-4120, www.pollardml.org
• Independent film night on the sec-
ond Thursday of each month from
6:30 to 9 p.m. Films are not rated.
• **Little Sparrow** (NR, 2011) Thurs.,
Dec. 8, at 6:30 p.m.

NEWBURYPORT
SCREENING ROOM

82 State St., Newburyport, Mass.,
978-462-3456, www.newburyport-
movies.com
• **Love Crime** (NR, 2011) Thurs.,
Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m.
• **Brighton Rock** (NR, 2011) Fri.,
Dec. 9, at 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sat., Dec.
10, at 3:45, 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun.,
Dec. 11, at 5 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Dec.
12, thru Thurs., Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m.

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95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033,
www.thecolonial.org
• **Take Shelter** (R, 2011) Sat., Dec.
10, at 8 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 11, at 2, 5
& 8 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 12, through
Thurs., Dec. 15, at 7 p.m.

OTHER

• **JOYEUX NOEL** (PG-13, 2005)
Mon., Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. at the UU
Society, 12 Elm St. in Exeter, with
a post-film discussion. Event is free
and open to the public. Call 642-
4648.
• **BROTHER OUTSIDER** (2003)
documentary about Bayard Rustin,
a disciple of Ghandi and a mentor to
Martin Luther King Jr., will screen
on Mon., Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. at the
Concord Unitarian Universalist
Church, 274 Pleasant St. in Con-
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Nite Roundup

Local music & nightlife news

By Michael Witthaus
music@hippopress.com

• **Swing into Christmas:** Combine the Andrews Sisters with Asleep at the Wheel; add nutmeg, cinnamon and peppermint. That's one way to think of Sweet, Hot and Sassy. The talented trio reunites for a holiday show, which includes "Santa Bring My Baby Back" and other selections from their 1990s gem *Swinging 'Round the Christmas Tree*. See Sweet, Hot & Sassy on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. at Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 South Main St. in Concord. Tickets are \$15 at www.ccanh.com.

• **Big night:** There's no room for down time at a Christmas showcase featuring luminaries from the world of music and comedy, along with appearances from both Governor Lynch and Santa Claus. Radio's Greg and the Morning Buzz host it, with backline musical support provided by the Velvet Elves Orchestra. Super Secret Project plans to debut a new holiday tune for the event. Attend the Buzz Christmas Ball on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St. in Manchester. Tickets are \$29 & \$39 at www.palacetheatre.org.

• **California dreaming:** Drawing from hippie heroes like the Dead, Jefferson Airplane, Joplin and Hendrix, the Boston-based band Psychedelic Relics know how to get a Sixties groove going. Their singer/drummer is even named Poppy Seed. This is no ordinary cover group; their rich harmonies and stellar musical accompaniment set them apart. See Psychedelic Relics on Friday, Dec. 9, at 8:30 p.m. at Killarney's at the Holiday Inn, 9 Northeastern Blvd. in Nashua. Go to www.reverbnation.com/psychedelicrelics.

• **Pine-scented grass:** Country singer Amy Gallatin is part of a stellar ensemble that includes her partner Roger Williams, Rick Lang and the Blackstone Valley Bluegrass Band, well-regarded for their three- and four-part harmonies. It's a Christmas concert promising both upbeat and contemplative holiday tunes sung in a down-home way. See Christmas at Pilgrim Church on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. at Pilgrim Church, 197 Middle Road in Brentwood. Tickets are \$15 (children/seniors \$10). Go to www.haleyannamusic.com.

• **Song girl:** Kim Riley writes spiffy originals — her "Anytime Down the Road" has the longing of a good Townes Van Zandt tune. With a solid set list of covers that showcase her brassy voice and laid-back guitar playing, she manages to keep booked half the week at area watering holes, including an upcoming set at a recently opened Mexican eatery. See Kim Riley on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 6 p.m. at Pochito's Mexican Restaurant & Cantina, 33 S Commercial St. in Manchester. More at www.kimrileymusic.net.

A long way from chainsaw art

Amber Rubarth works with Jason Mraz on latest album

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

One of the year's most endearing duets began when Amber Rubarth couldn't shake Jason Mraz from her brain.

"I was writing this song called 'Mirror,' and for whatever reason, Jason's voice was in my head the entire time," she recalls. Surely that's happened to more than one woman, but she'd once met Mraz through a mutual friend, so she made a rough recording of the tune and sent it with an explanation to the alt heartthrob.

"I thought it was done at that point, but he wrote back," Rubarth says. "He said, 'This is so weird.'"

It turns out Mraz was toying with a similar song idea, and the two put their heads together. Trading e-mails, he added a bridge to Rubarth's lyric, and they came up with the gorgeous opening refrain — one word, "you." With help from producer Jacquire King (Tom Waits, Kings of Leon) they completed the track at Mraz's home studio in San Diego, in time to include it on her new album, *A Common Case of Disappearing*.

Weirder still, the Maryland home where Rubarth wrote "Mirror" belongs to John Alagia, producer of Mraz's debut album. She learned after the fact that it was recorded in the same house.

"Freaked me out," says Rubarth. "That's probably how he got into my head."

The collaboration led to a second song (triggered by King), which they played together at the Hotel Cafe in Los Angeles in October. On Thanksgiving Eve, Mraz invited Rubarth onstage at his sold-out Carnegie Hall show. Two spotlights melded into a glowing heart shrouding the pair as they sang "Rated Ours." The song is a playful homage to movie love: Mraz sings, "It's you who put the motion in my picture;" Rubarth coos, "You had me at hello" in response.

"It felt like we were in a movie when we were writing it," Rubarth recalls.

A roaring Carnegie Hall crowd is just one scene in Rubarth's own film, and it's shaping into a blockbuster. She's worked with Jason Reeves ("Bubbly") and recently spent time in Texas writing songs with Dixie Chicks Emily Robison and Martie Maguire for the next Courtyard Hounds album.

Her songs leaven themes of love, longing and vulnerability with humor and street smarts. They're delivered with an engaging voice best described by producer King, also one of the judges who chose Rubarth for the top prize in last year's Mountain Stage NewSong competition: "When she sings, it makes you smile," he says.

The California native admires L.A. songwriters like Randy Newman and Tom Waits — Rubarth names *Mule Variations* as a key influence. King produced the 1999 Waits album, and Rubarth was excited to record with him, an honor that came with the NewSong award.

"There are a lot of great producers whose stamp you recognize," Rubarth says, "but I really prefer Jacquire's production style ... he really draws out who the artist is and the best way of representing them instead of putting his own thing on it."

A Common Case of Disappearing contains nine tracks, including one of her earliest songs. Before going into music full-time, Rubarth was a chainsaw sculptor, and "Rough Cut" is written from the perspective of wood being shaped and defined by outside forces — which also reflects her growth as a musician.

"Michelangelo said, art is never finished, it's just at some point you decide to stop," Rubarth explains. "I love that idea ... one of my favorite ways of seeing sculpture is when it is unfinished. Some important cuts are being made in my life



Amber Rubarth. Courtesy photo.

— with Jacquire, Emily and Marty, Jason and Jason, all these people. It feels like I'm getting shaped and inspired in a lot of ways that I would not be able to do by myself."

Other highlights on the record include "Nothing To See Here," its percolating arrangement inspired by Elvis Costello and the Attractions, the plaintive "How Did This Happen?" and "City Starts to Bloom," a happy-go-lucky pop song written with Reeves.

Reeves and Rubarth met at the Monday song pull at the Room 5 Lounge in Los Angeles.

"He was the feature performer and both of us just sort of fell in love with each other's songs and became friends," she says. The two later played up and down the West Coast, traveling on Vespa motor scooters. "It's the best tour I have ever been on ... we camped out every night and drove on to the next show and it was ridiculously awesome. We started writing together then."

Rubarth first attracted notice with Paper Raincoat, her duo with Alex Wong, a close friend and

early collaborator with whom she shares a unique composing style. "We both have strong opinions," Rubarth says. "Both of us will feel strongly about doing one thing a certain way, and it doesn't match. So we have to battle it out, and I think that's what makes it work."

For now, Paper Raincoat is on hiatus as both focus on solo projects. Rubarth's album came out in the fall, and the tireless social networker is giving it her full attention. She's especially grateful that long-admired artists like King, Mraz and Reeves are now in her orbit.

"I feel lucky and inspired," Rubarth says. "To be around these people is hugely inspiring, and it's pushing me to really raise my bar and learn a lot."

Amber Rubarth with Jay Nash and Dave Eggar

When: Sunday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m.
Where: Tupelo Music Hall, 2 Young Road in Londonderry
Tickets: \$15 at www.tupelo-hall.com

Lennon remembered

Star-studded CD, area band's charity work pay homage

By Michael Witthaus
music@hippopress.com

On a cold December evening/I was walking through the Christmas tide

When a stranger came up and asked me/If I'd heard John Lennon had died

And the two of us went to this bar/and we stayed to close the place

And every song we played was for/the late great Johnny Ace, yeah, yeah, yeah

— Paul Simon

It was nearing midnight on Dec. 8, 1980, and the end of my air shift when the news came. From a Teletype machine in those pre-Internet days, delivered in short, economical bursts: "Former Beatle shot in front of his

apartment." Minutes later, word arrived that he had not survived the attack.

I'd only moved to the Granite State a few months earlier to start my first big radio job, music director and evening host at M-106 (now Q-106) in Claremont. What came next was among the hardest things I've ever done. I put "Imagine" on the turntable, opened the microphone and

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NITE



Nutopians. Courtesy photo.

spoke the words, “John Lennon is dead.”

In my early 20s, I was mostly unacquainted with loss. John’s murder was too sudden, too jarring. Comparing it to losing a family member trivializes my emotions. The Beatles arrived on American shores like a comet entering Earth’s atmosphere. The group disbanded with nearly the same fury seven short years later, spinning off in four distinctly different creative directions.

Lennon’s solo work chronicled the pain and liberation he experienced with the band’s breakup. Later, he stumbled and fell in his personal life, then righted himself and disappeared into parenthood. His steps (and missteps) felt a lot like my own. Just before his death, John released his comeback album, *Double Fantasy*.

But now the dream was over. In that moment, I watched history recede in a blur, and struggled for words to honor it.

For Joe Raiola, behind the wheel of a New York City cab when he heard, it was much the same.

“Instinctively, I flipped on my ‘off duty’ light and headed straight for Dakota,” he writes in *Memories of John Lennon*, a 2004 book of essays edited by Yoko Ono. “By the time I arrived a crowd had already gathered. We hugged each other and cried and took whatever comfort we could in singing John’s songs.”

Exhausted at 4 a.m., he walked to the apartment of Alec Rubin, director of the experimental Theatre Within, where Raiola was a member. The two listened to a radio host taking calls from stunned fans, he wrote.

“Neither of us realized it at the time, but the idea of doing an annual Lennon tribute had taken root in our hearts,” Raiola recalled in the book.

What began as an evening of shared memories grew into a night of John’s music; in 2010, the year Lennon would have turned 70, a star-studded group performed, and a recording of the event, *The 30th Annual John Lennon Tribute Live from the Beacon Theatre NYC*, was released last month.

Lennon once said, “Life doesn’t imitate art, life is art,” and that’s apparent when Patti Smith talks about the death of her husband Fred “Sonic” Smith and “looking to Yoko as an example of how to carry oneself as a widow.” Shelby Lynne performs a harrowing version of “Mother” and it’s impossible not

to think of Lynne’s own shattering loss, when her father shot her mother and then killed himself when she and her sister, singer Allison Moorer, were still teenagers.

Martin Sexton’s rendition of “Working Class Hero” unifies the crowd — “I don’t see things in red or blue anymore,” he jokes — and one regrets that a gray and wizened John isn’t alive to perform it himself — the times surely could use him. Jackson Browne’s “You’ve Got to Hide Your Love Away,” Aimee Mann’s take of “Jealous Guy,” the Kennedys’ buoyant “And Your Bird Can Sing” all underscore a simple truth: with the multitude of music flowing from the Beatles, the Lennon tributary stands out with a singular brilliance.

Rex Fowler celebrates Lennon’s music every night. Last year, his band appeared at Tupelo Music Hall, the Palace Theatre and other New Hampshire venues, after earning Yoko Ono’s attentions. Originally called the John Lennon Song Project, it ran into legal restrictions that forced a name change. Ono suggested The Nutopians, taken from an imaginary world the couple wrote about. Fowler and his mates readily agreed.

Imagined, their first disc of Lennon covers, earned an independent music Vox Populi award; work progresses on a follow-up, *Re-Imagined*. The group recently aligned with WhyHunger, a charity formed in 1975 by the late singer-songwriter Harry Chapin, and will donate a portion of ticket sales from its live performances to its Artists Against Hunger & Poverty program.

“You may say I’m a dreamer, but I’m not the only one,” wrote John Lennon. On a cold Sunday six days after his senseless murder, an international celebration of John’s life took place. I joined with a hundred or so strangers, who today I think of as neighbors, in Claremont’s Broad Street Park. We lit candles, sang “Imagine,” and shed tears for a man none of us had ever met, but whose soul had touched us deeply. We listened for the echoes of millions across the world doing the same thing at the same moment, taking comfort that we were not the only ones.

The Nutopians
www.thenutopians.com.
The Annual John Lennon Tribute: www.theatrewithin.org.

Nightlife Listings

Music, comedy & parties

- **HOLIDAY DANCE PARTY AND SHOWCASE** will be held by Queen City Ballroom in the Armory Room of the Radisson Hotel, 700 Elm St., Manchester, on Sun., Dec. 11, from 1 to 5 p.m. Tickets cost \$16 until Dec. 10 at the studio (21 Dow St., Manchester) or by calling 622-1500. Tickets will cost \$20 at the door.
- **MICHELLE SKINNER** will perform holiday music at Hope Tabernacle Church, 222 Cedar St., Manchester, on Sunday, Dec. 11, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- **THE BUZZ BALL** will be held at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, on Wed., Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. The event will feature the hosts of *Greg and the Morning Buzz* and a performance by the Velvet Elves. Tickets cost

\$30 and \$40 at palacetheatre.org or by calling 668-5588.

- **NEW HORIZONS BENEFIT** at Milly’s Tavern, 500 N. Commercial St., Manchester, will be held on Sat., Dec. 17, from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. The event will feature live music, appetizers and a silent auction. Tickets cost \$10 at Milly’s, New Horizons for New

Continued on page 68

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Christmas for your car

Michelle Skinner loves traditional holiday songs

By Angel Roy
 aroy@hippopress.com

Michelle Skinner has been singing traditional Christmas songs since July. Six months later, she has yet to grow tired of them.

"Ask me again in the middle of December," said the singer, 33, who recently released her first full-length album, *Christmas with Michelle Skinner*. Skinner, of Manchester, has shows scheduled at local churches and coffee shops throughout December.

"I've never done something like this before," Skinner said.

The Manchester West High School alum studied classical music at the University of New Hampshire before enrolling at the Musicians Institute in Los Angeles, an experience she called "eye-opening."

"When I went out there my training was classical and I had never heard other styles of music," she said. "It definitely broadened my genre ... now I know how to play different styles on my guitar."

Skinner is featured on vocals and guitar on her album. She invited pals Michael Vincent Shaughnessy and Cheryl Oliver to lend their vocal, piano and flute skills to the record. It was a chance meeting with Shaughnessy, whom she met when the two sang in their high school choir, over the summer that made Skinner's album a reality. She mentioned she had plans to make a record and Shaughnessy, who has a music studio and is also a trained musician, took on the role of her producer.

"The way we work together in the studio is just amazing," Skinner said. The pair only did one take of "The First Noel" for the album, with Skinner on vocals and Shaughnessy on piano. "We looked at each other and said, 'Wow, that was pretty impressive,'" Skinner said. "We were able to get the sound we wanted so we left it the way it was."

Skinner chose to fill her first full-length album with Christmas songs at the request of her sister, Danielle. Skinner had recorded some music while in California but never Christmas music.

"For the past few years she has been asking me when I would record Christmas songs," Skinner said. "She said, 'I really want something to listen to in the car, to have something by you.'"

"I am Christian and my faith is strong, so I thought, what would be better than to have my first full-length album be something I stand for?" she said.

Now every time Skinner gets in the car of one of her friends or family members, they are playing her CD — Skinner sold out of her first 100 album copies in the first week of its release.

"It's really, really weird for me," she said. "Even my parents, of course they're playing it nonstop in their car."

Continued from page 66

Hampshire and helpnewhorizons.org (\$15 at the door).

• **ED GERHARD** will perform his annual Christmas guitar concert at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, on Fri., Dec. 16, and Sat.,

Dec. 17, at 7:30

p.m. Tickets cost \$27 at the door if available, or \$25 in advance at virtuerecords.com, Lovell Designs in Portsmouth, Exeter Music in Exeter, Ear Craft Music in Dover or by calling 664-7200.

• **WORLD MUSIC** will be per-

formed by the Wildest Dreams Worldbeat Music Ensemble at Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St., Amherst, on Sun., Jan. 8, from 4 to 5 p.m. The show is free and open to the public. Call 673-2288 or email library@amherst.lib.nh.us to reserve a spot.



Michelle Skinner. Courtesy photo.

The album is filled with holiday carols that really show what Christmas is about, Skinner said: "It's not like 'Holly, Jolly Christmas' and all that kind of stuff ... it's standard traditional Christmas songs — 'O, Holy Night,' 'Silent Night.'"

Skinner said it was important for her to include "O, Holy Night" on her album as her mother used to sing it in church. "That song means a lot to me," she said, adding that "What Child is This?" is another meaningful song for her on the holiday record.

"Each song just sounds very unique and different," Skinner said of her renditions of the traditional tunes. "I think that [a good Christmas album] is something that is sung with passion ... I think that's portrayed in the CD."

Skinner now teaches piano, guitar and vocal lessons to children at the Satellite School of the Arts in Manchester, which is run by Shaughnessy, and sings praise songs and hymns at local nursing homes. She has plans to record a "Spring Awakening" album filled with Easter songs in the spring and hopes to record an original album next fall.

Christmas with Michelle Skinner is available at CDBaby.com

Get in the holiday spirit

See Michelle Skinner at Debbie's Barbershop, 353 S. Main St. in Manchester, on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 8 to 11 a.m.; at Hope Tabernacle Church, 222 Cedar St., Manchester, on Sunday, Dec. 11, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.; Fat Daddy's Coffee Café, 650 Amherst St., Nashua, on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 6 to 8 p.m.; and Starbucks Coffee, 1111 S. Willow St., Manchester, on Thursday, Dec. 22, from 6 to 8 p.m.

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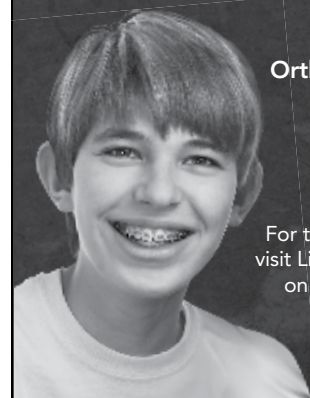


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Cut to camera one — RockandRollCrosswords.com by Todd Santos

- Across
1. Melvins ‘Matt-____’

5. Music preference

10. What touring bands cover

14. Biblical Bob Seger System album?

15. Locale-inspired Counting Crows song

16. GnR ‘Get In The ____’

17. ‘____ New Day’ Will.I.Am
- (3,1)

18. Reviewers jottings

19. Gush over show

20. Dylan ‘Gotta _____’ (5,8)

23. German teen idol Ofarim

24. What Mellancamp got ‘Up’ on ‘Whenever We Wanted’

25. ‘My Only Lover’ reggae guy (7,6)

32. Stones “Who is under his spell is

- paying the devil his ____”

33. Sidestage nods

34. What your stomach is in before show

36. Reggae phrase for oneness (1,3,1)

39. Santana ‘____ It Again’

40. Scots Arab ____

41. ____ Day

42. ‘O Brother, Where Art ____?’ soundtrack

44. Winehouse ‘Tears ____ On Their Own’

45. Linkin Park leader Bennington side project (4,2,7)

49. Billy Corgan solo album song

50. Stooges ‘I Wanna Be Your ____’

51. They film the concert footage

58. Kinks had to spell her out for you

59. Twisted Sister ‘Under The ____’

60. ‘10,000 Days’ band

12/1

H	I	F	I		P	E	E	P	S		B	R	I	T
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62. Alanis Morissette ‘Under Rug Swept’ song
63. Sing/songer from NY?
64. Internal Casting Crowns song? (2,2)
65. What Walmart does to explicit albums
66. Patsy Cline-ish LeAnn
67. Punk band ____ Kennedys Down
1. Acoustic performer DiFranco
2. How much ‘Love’ it’s going to take, to Nicolette Larson
3. What Commodores take their Sunday morning with
4. How you buy tix nowadays
5. ‘Funky Cold Medina’ rapper (4,3)
6. ‘Strange Little Girls’ Tori
7. Ozzy song off ‘Diary Of A Mad-man’ (abbr)
8. Van Morrison’s first band
9. Paul Stanley’s down time needs
10. Like some lead singers
11. Goes with GnR’s ‘Bedouins’
12. Might feel it when label-mates get rich
13. Blink-182 ‘What’s My ____ Again?’
21. Producer Butch
22. ‘California Saga/The ____ of Eagles’ Beach Boys
25. Security
26. “Just walk away ____, you won’t see me follow you back home”
27. Soundgarden ‘____ Cage’
28. ‘Maps’ Yeah Yeah ____

29. U2 ‘All I Want ____’ (2,3)
30. Bring guitars and amps together
31. Gawk at concert chicks
32. Incubus song about shoveling?
35. Stealth song off ‘Morrison Hotel’?
37. Sixx AM ‘____ Ballet’ (4,4)
38. Alternative music, now
43. Disrobe for heartthrob
46. What hair metal bands didn’t visit often
47. Sigur ____
48. ‘95 Pearl Jam hit w/Neil Young (1,3,2)
51. GnR ‘Use Your Illusion 1’ closer
52. ‘Atom Heart Mother’ engineer Parsons
53. Say (____ Need) OneRepublic
54. Kind of tree outside Malibu mansion
55. Cult “Wired on the pills you took, ____”
56. Sixpence ____ The Richer
57. “I’m all by myself, as I’ve always felt” Pumpkins
58. ‘Beat The Boys’ experimental band?
61. “You ____ me away from home” Rod Stewart

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155 Dow St., 623-7778
Breezeway Pub
14 Pearl St., 621-9111
City Sports Grille
216 Maple St., 625-9656
Club 313
93 S. Maple St., 628-6813

Starbucks: Jack Walker-Manion
Strange Brew: Tom Ballerini
Wild Rover: blues jam w/ Wan-Tu Blues Band

Meredith
Giuseppe’s: Jim Tyrell

Merrimack
The Homestead: Lachlan Maclearn

Milford
Chapanga’s: open mike w/ Driven
Clark’s: DJ Obdulio

Delux
36 Lowell St., 644-1180
Derryfield Country Club
625 Mammoth Rd, 623-2880
Don Quijote
333 Valley St., 792-1110
Drynk
20 Old Granite St., 836-5251
Element Lounge
1055 Elm St., 627-2922
Fratello’s
155 Dow Street, 624-2022
Gaucht’s Churrascaria
62 Lowell St., 669-9460
Grand Nightclub & Lounge,
61 Canal St., 518.5547
Hanover St. Chophouse
149 Hanover St., 644-2467
Ignite Bar & Grille
100 Hanover St., 494-6225
Jam Factory
1211 Elm St., 203-1458
Jillian’s Billiard Club
50 Philippe Cote Drive, 626-7636
Johnny Bad’s
542 Elm St., 222-9191
Jokers
1279 S. Willow St., 935-9947
Lafayette Club
387 Canal St., 623-9323
Lazy Nick’s Coffee House
362 Huse Road, 232-7187
Luigi’s Pizza Bar & Grille
712 Valley St., 622-1021
Mad Bob’s Saloon
342 Lincoln St., 669-3049
McGarvey’s
1097 Elm St., 627-2721
Milly’s Tavern
500 Commercial St., 625-4444
Mulligan’s
424 Lake Ave., 623-6342
Murphy’s Taproom
494 Elm St., 644-3535
My Friend’s Bar and Grill
507 Maple St., 627-3444
NH Institute of Art
148 Concord St.
New England Revival Cof-fehouse
Calvary Fellowship Church, 60 Bailey Ave., 625-9550,
Olympic Lounge
506 Valley St., 644-5559
Piccola’s Upstairs Lounge
815 Elm St.
Penuche’s Grill
96 Hanover St., 626-9830
Pochito’s
33 S. Commercial St., 232-3054
Raxx Lounge
1195 Elm St.
Rocko’s Bar & Grill
253 Wilson St., 626-5866
Sam Adams Bar & Grill
Northeast Delta Dental Stadium, 1 Line Drive., 641-2005
The Shaskeen
909 Elm St., 625-0246
Starbucks
1111 S. Willow St., 641-4839
Strange Brew Tavern
88 Market St., 666-4292
Theos
102 Elm St., 669-4678
Unwine’d

Merrimack
The Homestead
641 DW Highway, 429-2022
Jade Dragon
515 DW Highway, 424-2280

Milford
American Legion
15 Cottage St., 673-9804
Chapanga’s
168 Elm St., 249-5214
J’s Tavern
63 Union Sq., 249-9222
The Pasta Loft
241 Union Sq., 672-2270
Madison’s Irish Pub
586 Nashua St.
Tiebreakers at Hampshire Hills
50 Emerson Road, 673-7123

Nashua
The Amber Room
53 High St., 881-9060
Backstage Bar and Grill
56 Canal St., 598-8256
Boston Billiard Club
55 Northeastern Blvd., 595-2121
The Bounty
Holiday Inn, 9 Northeastern Blvd., 800-230-4134
Club Social
240 Main Dunstable Road. 889-9838
Country Tavern
452 Amherst St., 889-5871
Fat Daddy’s Cafe
650 Amherst St.
Fody’s Tavern
9 Clinton St., 577-9015
Haluwa Lounge
Nashua Mall, 883-6662
Killarney’s Irish Pub
Holiday Inn, 888-1551
Lafayette Club
34 High St, 889-9860
Laureano Nightclub
245 Main St.
Martha’s Exchange
185 Main St., 883-8781
Michael Timothy’s
212 Main St., 595-9334
Nashua Garden
121 Main St., 886-7363
Old Amsterdam Bar
8 Temple St., 204-5501
The Peddler’s Daughter

Pasta Loft: Morgan & Pete

Nashua
Amber Room: DJ
Amsterdam: DJ
Fody’s: Josh Logan Band

Newmarket
Stone Church: Cruptopia, Flabberghaster, Leader’s Led

Portsmouth
Press Room: Peter

865 Second St., 625-9463
The Wild Rover
21 Kosciuszko St., 669-7722
Workmen’s Club
183 Douglas St.
XO on Elm
827 Elm St., 206-5721
The Yard
1211 S. Mammoth Road, 623-3545
Z Food and Drink
860 Elm St.

Meredith
Camp
300 DW Highway, 279-3003
Giuseppe’s Ristorante
312 DW Highway, 279-3313

Merrimack
The Homestead
641 DW Highway, 429-2022
Jade Dragon
515 DW Highway, 424-2280

Milford
American Legion
15 Cottage St., 673-9804
Chapanga’s
168 Elm St., 249-5214
J’s Tavern
63 Union Sq., 249-9222
The Pasta Loft
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212 Main St., 595-9334
Nashua Garden
121 Main St., 886-7363
Old Amsterdam Bar
8 Temple St., 204-5501
The Peddler’s Daughter

Heimlich
Red Door: Local Heroes w/ Jack Blackwater
Rudi’s: Rob Gerry and Phil Sargent

Salem
Murray’s: blues jam w/ Steve Devine

Friday, Dec. 9
Belmont
The Lodge: Tripwire

Concord
Green Martini: Yankee Cock Fight
Makris: Just Us

48 Main St., 880-8686
Penuche’s Ale House
4 Canal St., 595-9831
Pine Street Eatery
136 Pine St., 886-3501
The Polish American Club
15 School St., 889-9819
Sausage King
53 Main St., 204-5110
Simple Gifts Coffee House
58 Lowell St.
603 Lounge
14 W. Hollis St., 821-5260
The Sky Lounge
522 Amherst St., 882-6026
Slade’s Food & Spirits
4 W. Hollis St., 886-1334
Stella Blu
70 E. Pearl St., 578-5557
Villa Banca
194 Main St., 598-0500

New Boston
Gravity Tavern
35 Mont Vernon Rd, 487-2011

Newmarket
Lamprey River Tavern
110 Main St., 659-3696
KJ’s Sports Bar
N. Main St., 659-2329
Stone Church
5 Granite St., 650-7700

Newton
Hen House Sports Bar & Grill
85 S. Main St., 382-1705

Pelham
Shooters
116 Bridge St., 635-3577

Peterborough
Harlow’s Pub
3 School St., 924-6365
Peterborough Players Theater
Hadley Road

Plaistow
Corner Pocket
181 Plaistow Rd., 382-3130
Dugout Grille
93 Main St., 819-4947
The Sad Café
148 Plaistow Rd,382-8893

Portsmouth
American Legion Post 6
96 Islington St.
Blue Mermaid Island Grill
hill at Hanover and High streets, 427-2583
Daniel Street Tavern
111 Daniel St.
Dolphin Striker
15 Bow St., 431-5222
Fat Belly’s
2 Bow St. 610-4337
Gas Light Co.
64 Market St., 431-9122
The Hilton Garden Inn
100 High St., 431-1499
Jitto’s Supersteak
3131 Lafayette Rd, 436-9755
The Music Hall
104 Congress St., 433-3100
Paddy’s American Grill

Red Blazer: Randy Arrant
Tandy’s: DJ
True Brew: Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki, Tyler Road

Dover
Brick House: Gazpacho
Kelley’s Row: Take 4

On the scene

**Band members of the world, unite and take over**

Do you have an upcoming show? Make sure that even if the venue doesn't let us know, it gets listed in the Music This Week by sending us updates of your upcoming gigs. Send locations, dates and times for your upcoming shows to music@hippopress.com. Send information by noon on Monday to get listed for the coming week. Or send us links to your regularly updated website or MySpace page.

... or you, with a club...

Does your bar/restaurant/coffeeshop frequently host musical performances? Send the information to music@hippopress.com along with your address and phone number so we can get you into the Music This Week. And if you regularly update your website or MySpace page, you can send us those links as well. Get the information in by noon on Monday to make the coming Thursday's paper.

... and if you are a music fan...

If you're out on the scene and see a show at a location not regularly listed in the Music This Week, let us know at music@hippopress.com. Our goal is to give you the most complete live music listings in the region each and every week.

In the spotlight

**Snake Oil Revue at Milly's**

Captain Chet Lawson's Snake Oil Revue will bring 1930s blues and Americana tunes to Milly's Tavern, 500 N. Commercial St., Manchester, on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9 p.m. to 1 p.m. The Snake Oil Revue, whose members include guitarist and vocalist Rob Kleiner, bassist Mark Trotter, drummer Mike Crane and Matt Rosenberg on the banjolele, harmonica, musical saw and vocals, formed in late 2009 and counts Woody Guthrie, Johnny Cash, the Ramones, Nirvana and the White Stripes among their influences. Breaking Character, another four-member Concord area band, will also perform.

Plaistow

The Dugout: DJ Boo
Sad Cafe: Beneath the Machine, Kryptic Deception, Last Valour, Scapegoat

Portsmouth

Blue Mermaid: Lit On The Flash
Gaslight: DJ Koko P
Hilton Garden Inn: Rick Watson
The Page: DJ
Red Door: Tamer Malki
Press Room: Dan Blakeslee
Rudi's: Jim Dozet Trio

Salem

Black Water Grill: Rob Breton
Jocelyn's: DJ

Seabrook

Chop Shop: Tigerlily
Honey Pot: DJ

**Saturday, Dec. 10
Allentown**

Ground Zero: Ana Sapphira, Animatronic the Abolisher, Exiting the Fall, Getting Found

Auburn

Holiday's: Coldstream

Belmont

The Lodge: Tom Dixon Band

Bow

Chen Yang Li: Phoenix

Concord

Green Martini: Kenny Weiland and Brad Parker
Hermanos: Joel Cage
Tandy's: DJ

Dover

Brick House: Evenine, PT Burnem
Kelley's Row: Pete Finkle
RJ's: DJ

Epping

Holy Grail: Public Servants

Epsom

Circle 9 Ranch: Karen Morgan & Pony Express

Gilford

Patrick's: Paul Costley and Josh Logan

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Common Knowledge

Hampstead

Pasta Loft: Jim Gray Band
Village Square: Dirty Thirds

Hooksett

Asian Breeze: George Belli and the Retroactivists

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Tim Gurshin

Whippersnappers: Souled Out Show Band

Manchester

Black Brimmer: Soundtrack 2 Monday
City Sports Grille: Undercover Operatives
Club 313: DJ Bob
The Derryfield: Nimbus 9
Fratello's: John Chouinard
Jam Factory: Zombie Beatdown, The Smashed, RF30, Blue Collar Convicts, The Union Boys
Jokers: Bob Gautreau
Milly's: Captain Chet Lawson's Snake Oil Revue, Breaking Character
Murphy's: Best Not Broken
Piccola: Charlie Christos
Raxx: DJ Mike
Shaskeen: Irish sessions w/ Roger Burridge, Xrossed
Strange Brew: Ryan Hartt
Wild Rover: Scalawag
The Yard: Bobby Carlson and the Stones River Band

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NITE

In the spotlight



Brazilian at the NH Jazz Center

Brazilian singer Eliana Marcia and Banda Azul will take the stage at the New Hampshire Jazz Center at Pitman's Freight Room, 74 New Salem St., Laconia, nhjazz.com, on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7:15 p.m.) Marcia is known for blending the musical cultures of West Africa, the United States and Brazil. She often sings in poetic Portuguese of magical places and ancestral spirits. Tickets cost \$10 at the door and the venue is BYOB. Upcoming shows at the NH Jazz Center include Johannes Wallmann on Dec. 15 and Charlie Jennison on Dec. 22.

In the spotlight



Electric breeze

George Belli & the Retroactivists will perform an electric show at Asian Breeze, 1328 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 8 to 11 p.m. The local band, which specializes in progressive pop rock covers, was formed by Belli, bassist Rich Blumenthal and drummer Jim Wayda six years ago. The band also often throws Motown, blues and rockabilly into its set lists.

- Meredith**
Giuseppe's: David Lockwood, Jam Sandwich

Merrimack
Homestead: Paul Luff

Milford
Clark's: Gary Lopez
Pasta Loft: Truffle

Nashua
Amber Room: DJ
Backstage Bar & Grill: DJ
Fat Daddy's: Ron Bourque
Martha's Exchange: DJ
Off The Wall Lounge: Blues Tonight Band
Peddlers: Take 4

Newmarket
Stone Church: Roots Nation

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: Todo Bien
Gaslight: DJ JW
Hilton Garden Inn: Paul Harkins
The Page: DJ
Press Room: jazz lunch w/ Larry Garland, Gnarllemagne
Red Door: George Vala and Audioprophecy
Rudi's: Dimitri & Danny

Salem
Jocelyn's: DJ

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Radio Edit

Sunday, Dec. 11

Concord
Hermanos: State Street Combo
Penuche's: open mike w/ Steve Naylor

Dover
Brick House: DJ Erich Kruger, Thee Icepicks
RJ's: DJ

- Goffstown**
Village Trestle: blues jam

Londonderry
Whippersnappers: Paul Costley & Josh Logan

Manchester
900 Degrees: blues open mike night w/ Tom Ballerini
Jam Factory: Threadweaver, Barbara Sloboda
Penuche's: blues jam w/ The Deep Pockets
Shaskeen: sing-along w/ the Spain Brothers
Strange Brew: Acoustic Duo

Meredith
Giuseppe's: open mike
- w/ Lou Porrazzo

Milford
Clark's: DJ

Nashua
Fody's: open mike w/ Chad Verbeck

Newmarket
Stone Church: open mike w/ Dave Ogden

Plaistow
Sad Cafe: Joey Grieve, Eli Elkus

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: open mike
Press Room: jazz grill w/ Chris Humphrey
Red Door: Green Lion
- Crew

Rudi's: jazz brunch w/ Lex and Joe

Stratham
Acoustic Outfitters: acoustic open mike w/ Ellen Carlson

Monday, Dec. 12

Candia
Henderson's: electric rock open mike

Concord
Barley House: Dave Tonkin
Hermanos: State Street Combo
Red Blazer: open mike w/Matt Langley

CONCERTS

- Venues**

Capitol Center for the Performing Arts 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com

The Colonial Theatre 95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033, thecolonial.org

Dana Humanities Center at Saint Anselm College 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu/dana

Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom 169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, 929-4100, casinoballroom.com

Leddy Center 38c Ladd's Lane, Epping, 679-2781, leddycenter.org

Lowell Boarding House Park 40 French St., Lowell, Mass., www.lowellsummermusic.org
- Lowell Memorial Auditorium** East Merrimack Street, Lowell, Mass., 978-454-2299, lowellauditorium.com

Meadowbrook U.S. Cellular Pavilion 72 Meadowbrook Lane, Gilford, 293-4700, meadowbrook.net

The Middle Arts & Entertainment Center 316 Central St., Franklin, 934-1901, themiddlenh.org

The Music Hall 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusic-hall.org

The Old Meeting House, 1 New Boston Rd., Francestown

Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org
- Prescott Park Arts Festival** 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, www.prescottpark.org, 436.2848

Rochester Opera House 31 Wakefield St., Rochester 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com

Stockbridge Theatre Pinkerton Academy, Route 28, Derry, 437-5210, stockbridgetheatre.com

Tupelo Music Hall 2 Young Road, Londonderry, 437-5100, tupelohall.com

Verizon Wireless Arena 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, www.verizonwirelessarena.com

Whittemore Center Arena UNH 128 Main St., Durham, 862-4000, www.whittcenter.com
- Chad Perrone Fri., Dec. 9, at 8 p.m., Tupelo

• Robert Cray Band Fri., Dec. 9, at 8 p.m., Colonial Theatre

• Dueling Pianos Sat., Dec. 10, at 8 p.m., Boynton's

• Chris Smither Sat., Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey

• Ronnie Earl Sat., Dec. 10, at 8 p.m., Tupelo

• Amber Rubarth Sun., Dec. 11, at 7 p.m., Tupelo

• Bellevue Cadillac Sat., Dec. 17, at 8 p.m., Tupelo

• Dueling Pianos Sat., Dec. 17, at 8 p.m., Boynton's

• New Riders of The Purple Sage Wed., Dec. 28, at 8 p.m., Tupelo

• Recycled Percussion Fri., Dec. 30, at 8 p.m., Palace

• Dueling Pianos Sat., Dec. 31, at 8 p.m., Boynton's

• Recycled Percussion Sat., Dec. 31, at 8 p.m., Palace

NITE

Dover

Castaway's Boathouse:
Denis Patrick's Merry
Pranksters' open mike
**Orchard Street Chop
Shop:** open mike w/
Dave Ogden

Hampton

La Bec Rouge: open
mike w/ Elijah Clark
Wally's Pub: DJ

Londonderry

Whippersnappers:
open mike

Manchester

Fratello's: Gardner Berry
Milly's: Dom and Reid
of Manchuka
Rocko's: Man Overboard,
Daybreakers, True Things,
The Offseason

Meredith

Camp: acoustic open mike
w/ Linden Mazurka
Giuseppe's: Lou
Porrazzo

Merrimack

The Homestead:
Charlie Christos

Milford

J's Tavern: acoustic
open mike

Portsmouth

Press Room: Dry
Martini
Red Door: Dan Blakeslee,
The Sea Captains

Tuesday, Dec. 13

Concord
Barley House: Irish
sessions
Hermanos: Glenn
Paladino
Tandy's: open mike w/
Calvin McFarlin

Dover

Brick House: acoustic
open mike w/ Anthony
Vito Fiandaca,
RJ's: DJ

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Scot
Gibbs and the Usual
Suspects

Hampstead

Pasta Loft: acoustic open
mike w/ Mike Belkas

Hampton

Wally's Pub: Baked
Naked, Liquid Courage

Londonderry

Whippersnappers:
video DJ

In the spotlight

**Hypnotic comedy, rated R**

Get ready for a night of R-rated comedy with hypnotist Frank Santos Jr. at Headliners Comedy Club at the Radisson Hotel, 700 Elm St., Manchester, on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 8:30 p.m. Santos has been performing R-rated hypnotism for 10 years and now takes the stage every Friday night at Twin Rivers Casino in Lincoln, R.I. Santos' show relies heavily on audience participation and no two shows are ever the same. Tickets cost \$15 (\$20 at the door) at headlinerscomedy-club.com.

In the spotlight

**Chad Perrone**

Five-time Boston Music Award nominee Chad Perrone will perform at Tupelo Music Hall, 2 Young Road, Londonderry, on Friday, Dec. 9, at 8 p.m. Perrone, former Averi frontman, has released three full-length solo studio albums and a live record and has shared the stage with Sting, Guster, The Goo Goo Dolls and others. His last album, *Release*, was named one of the top 20 records of 2010 at AlternateAddiction.com. Tickets cost \$17 at tupelohall-londonderry.com or by calling 437-5100.

Manchester

Black Brimmer: DJ
Chad
Fratello's: Paul Luff
Milly's: Manchuka
Murphy's: open mike
w/Josh Logan, Nate
Comp and Paul Costley
Raxx: DJ Mike
Strange Brew: Peter
Parcek

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Michael
Bourgeois

Merrimack

Homestead: Gary Lopez

Milford

J's Tavern: G Man from
Mama Kicks

Nashua

Fody's: DJ Mark Allen

Portsmouth

Press Room: jazz jam w/
Larry Garland, hoot open
mike w/ Jerry Short

Seabrook

Honey Pot: open mike

Wednesday, Dec. 14

Antrim
Redneck's: open mike
w/ the Boogiemen

Auburn

Holiday's: DJ Captain
Chris

Boscawen

Alan's: open mike

Concord

Hermanos: Glenn
Paladino
Tandy's: DJ

Dover

Fury's: open mike w/
Paul Chase
Three Chimney's Inn:
open mike

Gilford

Patrick's: Matt Tellier

Hampton

La Bec Rouge: DJ
Kelly Elliott
Wally's Pub: DJ

Kingston

**The Carriage Towne Bar
& Grille:** Mike Belkas

Manchester

Fratello's: Gary Lopez
Jokers: Josh Logan
Penuche's: open mike
w/ Friday After Five
Strange Brew: Frank
Morey

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Bob

Rutherford**Merrimack**

Homestead: Kim Riley

Milford

Clark's:
J's Tavern: Lisa from
Mama Kicks
Pasta Loft: open mike

Nashua

603 Lounge: open mike
w/ Kevin Horan
Off the Wall Lounge:
open mike
Peddlers Daughter:
Revels Glen
Sausage King: open
mike w/ John Borlaug
Studio 99: acoustic jam

Newmarket

Stone Church: Charlie
Strater

Peterborough

Harlow's Pub: open
mike

Portsmouth

Blue Mermaid: open
mike w/ Tom Brown and
Duke Mandell
Red Door: Red on Red
w/ Evareddy
Rudi's: Dimitri

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Saturday, Dec. 10

Manchester
Headliners: Bob Goutreau
Jokers: Comedy night

Monday, Dec. 12

Concord
Penuche's: live standup

Tuesday, Dec. 13

Manchester
Murphy's: live standup

Wed., Dec. 14

Manchester
Shaskeen: open mike

Nashua

Penuche's: live standup

Monday, Dec. 19

Concord
Penuche's: live standup

Wed., Dec. 21

Manchester
Shaskeen: open mike

Nashua

Penuche's: live standup

Monday, Dec. 26

Concord
Penuche's: live standup

Tuesday, Dec. 27

Manchester
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JONESIN' CROSSWORDS

“Out for the Day” — dish up, dig in, drop out. By Matt Jones

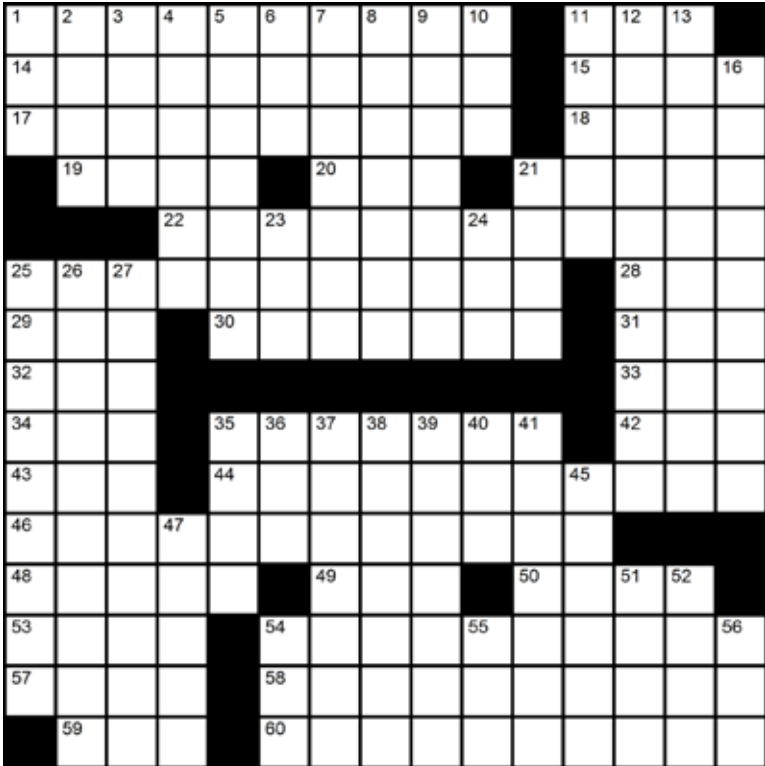
Across

- 1 Late November drowsiness
- 11 ___ Friday’s (restaurant chain)
- 14 You, you, you, or me
- 15 Dungeons & Dragons creatures
- 17 They’re used in repair of fractures
- 18 Bump into
- 19 “Gone in 60 Seconds” director Dominic
- 20 Org. that assigns numerical IDs
- 21 Fashion model/volleyball player Gabrielle

- 22 Tone Loc single released just after “Funky Cold Medina”
- 25 Controversial engineering
- 28 Lacto-___ vegetarian
- 29 “Then what happened?”
- 30 Think it could possibly be
- 31 Himalayan country: abbr.
- 32 Trippy stuff
- 33 “This American Life” host Glass
- 34 Vietnam Memorial designer Maya

- 49 WWII naval vessel
- 50 “There ___ substitute for...”
- 53 Suffix after Manhattan or McCarthy
- 54 Giving the cold shoulder
- 57 Part of CD
- 58 They swing on a steady basis
- 59 UK mil. award
- 60 Cause of 1-across, it’s said

- 37 Searcher for oil
- 38 Mass per unit volume
- 39 It has a descender when written in lower case
- 40 Before, to a poet
- 41 Alfonso of baseball
- 45 Use a plunger
- 47 Village Voice gossip columnist Michael
- 51 “The Secret of ___” (1982 animated movie)
- 52 Draft classification
- 54 Invoice fig.
- 55 “Wayne’s World” rejoinder
- 56 Channel that revived “The Newlywed Game”



- 35 They’re found in kids’ books
- 42 Massive Brit. lexicon
- 43 Shiba ___ (cute dog breed)
- 44 Duration of amateur boxing matches, often
- 46 Seasonal help
- 48 Forbidden topics: var.

Down

- 1 File folder feature
- 2 Ones, to Juan
- 3 Baseball Hall of Famer Sandberg
- 4 Nimoy and Shatner co-star
- 5 Facebook status word for some
- 6 “___ Blues” (Beatles song)
- 7 It goes under your glass
- 8 Away from the workplace
- 9 “Axis ___” (1995 album by The Shamen)
- 10 “Bite my shiny metal ___!” (“Futurama” phrase)
- 11 “Anger Management” actress
- 12 Scallion



- 13 Like Antarctica
- 16 Note takers’ needs
- 21 Hopeful, as outlooks go
- 23 “I’m ___ Boat”
- 24 1968 federal law regulating firearms, for short
- 25 Extremely angry
- 26 Stealthily implied
- 27 69 and 101, but not 86
- 35 Rural rds.
- 36 Their, to a Herr

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VELMA

All quotes are from *The Borrowers*, by Mary Norton, born Dec. 10, 1903.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) Mrs. May was old, her joints were stiff, and she was—not strict exactly, but she had that inner certainty which does instead. Try for inner certainty.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan 19) It was only Pod who knew the way through the intersecting passages to the hole under the clock. And only Pod could open the gates. There were complicated clasps made of hairpins and safety pins of which Pod alone knew the secret. Get a guide who knows the way.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) Arrietty wandered through the open door into the sitting room. Ah, the fire had been lighted and the room looked bright and cozy. Enjoy a bright and cozy sitting room.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) ‘Listen!’ he said. And he told her about railway stations and football matches and racecourses and royal processions and Albert Hall concerts. He told her about India and China and North America and the British Commonwealth. He told her about the July sales. Pay attention to someone’s stories about faraway travels or unusual experiences. Learn from those who have more experience.

Aries (March 21 – April 19)

“What had happened seemed too big for thought; she felt unable to believe it really had happened: not only had she been ‘seen’ but she had been talked to; not only had she been talked to but she had—...” You can make someone’s day by seeing them and talking to them.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) But it was one thing to write a letter and quite another to find some means of getting it under the mat. Break a task into two parts and tackle them separately.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) The boy was saying to Arrietty: ‘Why couldn’t you read me those?’ ‘Well, I could,’ said Arrietty, ‘but I’d rather read something new.’ Read something new.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) ‘Kate,’ she said after a moment, ‘stories never really end. They can go on and on and on. It’s just that sometimes, at a certain point, one stops telling them. ‘But not at this kind of point,’ said Kate. Choose a good breaking point.

Leo (July 23 – Aug 22) ‘What did they eat? Did they eat caterpillars, do you think?’ ‘Oh, goodness, child, of course they didn’t. They had a wonderful life They could gather hazel nuts and beechnuts and chestnuts; they could gather corn ... it was all there for them: they didn’t even have to plant it. They had honey. They could make elderflower tea and lime tea....’ Enjoy a good spread. It can be healthy and

still tasty.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) Very still she lay in her soft little bed with her familiar belongings about her.... She did not want to lose these, she realized suddenly, lying there straight and still in bed, but to have all the other things as well, adventure and safety mixed—that’s what she wanted. A balanced

approach, that’s what you need.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) ‘What’s the good,’ asked Pod, ‘of things behind glass?’ Not much, so take it out and use it.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) ‘The child is right,’ she announced firmly. Arrietty’s eyes grew big. ‘Oh, no—’ she began. It shocked her to be right. Par-

SIGNS OF LIFE

ents were right, not children. Children could say anything, Arrietty knew, and enjoy saying it—knowing always they were safe and wrong. Enjoy your ability to say whatever you want without consequences, because it won’t last long. Or don’t enjoy and start practicing right now to be more responsible. Still, you may be right.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

8								3
			7		4			
3	6						2	9
			3		6			
	3	9				1	4	
			1		7			
5	8						6	7
			9		1			
9								5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/08

SU DO KU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Last week's puzzle answers are below

12/1

9	5	6	8	4	2	7	1	3
2	1	3	7	9	6	5	4	8
4	8	7	5	3	1	9	6	2
8	7	4	2	6	9	1	3	5
5	2	1	4	7	3	6	8	9
3	6	9	1	8	5	4	2	7
7	9	8	3	1	4	2	5	6
1	3	2	6	5	7	8	9	4
6	4	5	9	2	8	3	7	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/01

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Page 77 | December 8 - 14, 2011 | Hippo

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

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World Leaders

Was Moammar Gadhafi the last of the “buffoon dictators,” asked BBC News in October. His legend was earned not merely with his now-famous, dirty-old-man scrapbook of Condoleezza Rice photos. Wrote a BBC reporter, “One day (Gadhafi) was a Motown (backup) vocalist with wet-look permed hair and tight pants. The next, a white-suited comic-opera Latin American admiral, dripping with braid.” Nonetheless, Gadhafi had competition, according to an October report in the journal Foreign Policy. For example, the son of Equatorial Guinea’s dictator owns, among other eccentric luxuries, a \$1.4 million collection of Michael Jackson memorabilia. North Korea’s Kim Jong Il owns videos of almost every game Michael Jordan ever played for the Chicago Bulls.

Leading Economic Indicators

• In March, William Ernst, 57, owner of the QC Mart chain of Iowa convenience stores, excitedly announced a company-wide employee contest with a prize of \$10 for guessing the next worker that Ernst will fire for breaking rules. “Once we fire the person, we will open all the envelopes (containing the entries), award the prize, and start the contest again.” Ernst added, “And no fair picking Mike Miller from (the Rockingham Road store). He was fired at around 11:30 a.m. today for wearing a hat and talking on his cellphone. Good luck!!!!!!” (After firing a cashier who had complained about Ernst’s attitude, he challenged the woman’s unemployment-compensation claim, but in October, a judge ruled in her favor.)

• Even in a flagging economy, Christie’s auction house in New York City was able to attract a record sales price for a photograph. In November, a 1999 photo by German artist Andreas Gursky, of a scenic view of the Rhine River, sold for \$4.3 million. (It is possible, of course, that buying the actual waterfront property that Gursky photographed from — to enjoy the same view every day — would have been less expensive.)

• Unfortunately, Manulife Financial Corp. is a Canadian firm, and thus it had a very bad year. If exactly the same company had been magically relocated to anywhere in the United States, it would have had an outstanding year. Under Canada’s hard-nosed accounting rules, Manulife was forced to post a loss last year of \$1.28 billion. However, under the more feel-good U.S. accounting rules, according to the company, it would have shown a profit of \$2.2 billion and been flush with \$16 billion more in shareholder value.

Wait . . . What?

In the course of an October story on an ill-fated Continental Airlines flight during which all restrooms in coach were broken, the reporter for the Star Tribune of Minneapolis sought reactions from experts. Calling the toilet failures a “bad situation that hasn’t been addressed” was Robert Brubaker, a spokesman for something called the American Restroom Association, “a Baltimore-based advocacy group for toilet users.”

Our Animal Overlords

• An Oxford University researcher reported in August on the African crested rat, which

is so ingenious that it slathers poison, from chewing the A. schimperi plant, onto an absorbent strip of fur on its back as protection against predators many times larger. The researcher observed first-hand a dog quivering in fear after just one failed mouthful of a crested rat’s fur in his laboratory. The noxious goo is also used by African tribesmen on their hunting arrows.

• Researching the Itty-Bitty: In October, Popular Science dubbed researcher Gaby Maimon of Rockefeller University as one of its “Brilliant 10” for 2011 for his monitoring of neurons in the brains of fruit flies. Maimon first had to immobilize the flies’ brains in saline and outfit their tiny neurons with even tinier electrodes — so that he could track which neurons were firing as the flies flapped their wings and carried out other activities (work that he believes can be useful in treating human autism and attention-deficit disorder).

• Oh, Dear! (1) An October Associated Press dispatch from New Orleans warned that “Caribbean crazy ants” are invading five Southern states by the millions, and because their death triggers distress signals to their pals for revenge attacks, up to 10 times as many might replace any population wiped out. Said a Texas exterminator, of a pesticide he once tried, “In 30 days I had 2 inches of dead ants covering (an) entire half-acre,” and still the ants kept coming, crawling across the carcasses. Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi are currently the most vulnerable. (2) Biologists found a shark fetus with one centered eye inside a pregnant dusky shark off the coast of Baja California Sur, Mexico, in October. A marine sciences lab in nearby La Paz confirmed that the unborn baby, which filled up a researcher’s hand, had the extremely rare congenital “cyclopia.”

Creme de la Weird

Police in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, arrested a much-too-zealous expert on local

cemeteries in November, suspected of digging up the bodies of 29 women buried in the city and taking them to his apartment. Local media identified him as prominent historian Anatoly Moskvina, 45, possessor of “certain quirks,” including making solitary forays through the hundreds of graveyards in the region. Police found the mummified corpses, outfitted in dresses and headscarves, in Moskvina’s home, along with an assortment of plastic dolls wearing frilly dresses.

Hey, What’s “Good News” Doing in “News of the Weird”?

(1) Japan’s National Police Agency revealed in August that during the five months following the tsunami-provoked nuclear disaster, super-honest searchers had turned in wallets containing the equivalent of \$48 million and safes containing cash of the equivalent of \$30 million. (2) In August, the school superintendent of Fresno County, Calif., refused \$800,000 in guaranteed salary and said he would run the 325-school system for three years on less pay than a first-year teacher makes. (3) Employees at the dump yard in Pompano Beach, Fla., gave Brian McGuinn zero chance of ever finding the custom-designed ring he had given his wife but had accidentally tossed in his trash at home on Oct. 30. Facing nine tons of 10-foot-high rotten eggs, dirty diapers and other garbage (which made him vomit), he found the ring within 30 minutes.

Are you ready for News of the Weird Pro Edition? Every Monday at <http://NewsoftheWeird.blogspot.com> and www.WeirdUniverse.net. Other handy addresses: [WeirdNews at earthlink dot net](http://WeirdNews.earthlink.net), <http://www.NewsoftheWeird.com>, and P.O. Box 18737, Tampa FL 33679. Copyright 2011 Chuck Shepherd. Distributed by Universal UClick.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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The Phreaks: A Phish Experience

Sat, Feb 11



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Fri, Feb 17



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POCO



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Sun.,
Jan. 22

7:00 p.m.

\$25
RS-Theater

COMMANDER CODY



Sun.,
Feb. 12

7:00 p.m.

\$25
RS-Theater

SUZANNE VEGA



Thurs.,
Feb. 16

8:00 p.m.

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